Palacios favors removing unused Garapan parking meters. PAGE 3
70-month prison term pushed for drug smuggler. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, fourth from left, testifies before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources' oversight field hearing at the Hilton Hotel in Tamuning, Guam yesterday.

Urgent congressional help sought on 'touchback' rule

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, right, and Guam Gov. Lourdes Leon Guerrero pose for a photo during a break in the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources' oversight field hearing in Guam yesterday.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Palacios also requests for 702 financial funding at US House Committee on Natural Resources oversight field hearing in Guam

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios appealed to a U.S. House of Representatives committee yesterday for urgent congressional support for legislation to repeal or at the very least delay the implementation of the "touchback" provision of the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program, which is due to go into effect next month. He told the committee that it will adversely impact many businesses in the CNMI when implemented.

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AP PHOTO/EUGENE HOSHIKO
The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, damaged by a massive March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami, is seen from the nearby Ukedo fishing port in Namie town, northeastern Japan, Thursday, Aug. 24, 2023.

$100K bail for man accused of sexually assaulting minor

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 38-year-old man is being accused of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl, who is reportedly so distraught over the attack that she has been placed on suicide watch.

Justin C. Diaz, who appeared in Superior Court for a bail hearing yesterday, allegedly sexually assaulted the victim on night of Aug. 22, at around 11pm. He is

See $100K on Page 4

Fukushima plant will start releasing radioactive wastewater into sea on Thursday

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

OKUMA, Japan (AP)— The operator of the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant will begin releasing the first batch of treated and diluted radioactive wastewater into the Pacific Ocean later Thursday, utility executives said.

Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings executive Junichi Matsumoto, who is in charge of the project, said its final

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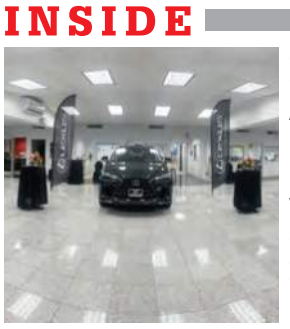

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NATION
Donald Trump is set to surrender to authorities in Georgia on Thursday on election scheming charges.
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ASIA
The United States has approved a $500-million arms sale to Taiwan as it ramps up military aid.
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Local

'Committee would have been unanimous in recommending Jorgensen confirmation'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) disclosed yesterday that the Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee report would have reflected that committee members were unanimous in recommending to the full Senate's the confirmation of lawyer Bruce Lee Jorgensen's to serve in the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors representing Rota.

Speaking at a Senate special session yesterday, Babauta, who chairs the EAGI Committee, said she was advised that Gov. Arnold I. Palacios withdrew the nomination of Jorgensen as per his prerogative and that she respects the governor's decision.

The EAGI Committee members are Sens. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), and Corina Magofna (D-Saipan).

Babauta disclosed that the committee report had been finalized and was due to be submitted this week.

Babauta said her office received Palacios' withdrawal letter last Aug. 21 and Jorgensen's confirmation hearing was conducted last July 26.

She said that, as shown during the hearing, there were numerous oral testimonials in support of Jorgensen's nomination and that he was forthright in his response to the questions and concerns posed by the committee.

In terms of Jorgensen's residency, he indicated that he never voted in any municipality except Rota, Babauta said, and that he testified under penalty of perjury that he is, in fact, a bona fide domiciliary of Rota.

As to the petition against his confirmation that was submitted by Sen. Dennis James Mendiola (R-Rota), Babauta said she personally called random people whose signatures appeared on that petition and that all the individuals she contacted expressed that they were victims of coercion and pressure tactics.

"Disliking an individual is not and should never be grounds or an excuse to reject a nomination," she said.

Babauta said although the nomination has been withdrawn, she personally hopes that the entire Senate can be afforded in the future the opportunity to vote on the record "as opposed to political plays behind the scenes."

"If a senator has something to say, let it be done to the nominee's face. Let's have each senator publicly take a position whether for or against," she said.

Babauta said she believes each nominee that comes before the EAGI Committee has the right to a fair vote and to a public hearing.

"It is out of my hands now, but I am hopeful that moving forward every nominee can count on the Senate as a whole to give them a fair shot," she added.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) stated in Chamorro that it is the governor's inherent power to nominate or withdraw a nomination, and they shall respect it.

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Senate committee holds off acting on House budget bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee will hold off acting on the House of Representatives' budget bill for fiscal year 2024 until the bicameral conference committee reaches a mutually agreed figure in the proposed budget's ceiling.

The House passed the budget legislation, House Bill 23-66, last Aug. 11 and it was transmitted to the Senate that same day. Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) subsequently referred the bill to the Fiscal Affairs Committee that same day.

Speaking at a special session yesterday, committee chair Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said his committee will not be acting on this legislation until the bicameral conference committee can agree on a ceiling in the anticipated revenues/resources.

Manglona

"We are currently in discussions in the conference committee," said the senator, adding that the committee convened yesterday and will resume its meeting today, Friday, to go over some of the points that some of the members have brought up.

Manglona chairs the Senate conference committee, while Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) chairs the House conference committee.

The Senate and House leadership formed the conference committee after the House rejected the Senate's amendments to the House concurrent resolution that reduced the administration's anticipated revenue in fiscal year 2024 from $172.5 million to $163 million.

The Senate has yet to finish the draft of their version of the budget bill.

Palacios favors removing unused Garapan parking meters

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Not one of the 57 parking meters that were installed along Beach Road and Garapan streets in the early 2000s have ever been used and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios believes they should be removed.

"It's dysfunctional!" said Palacios during a press briefing last week.

If the parking meters are not functioning, they should be removed as they only serve to confused tourists and other nonresidents, who think they need to put money in the meters when they park in the area.

The Department of Public Works hired Maeda Corp. to install 27 parking meters along Hotel Street and Coral Avenue, while 30 were installed along Beach Road in Garapan.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Some of the 57 parking meters installed in Garapan in early 2000's.

Palacios said the issue with the parking meters is regulatory—nobody wants to own it and be responsible for it, whether the Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Works, or another agency.

"We bought this thing, we built it, we put it there, you run it. You're responsible," he said, but the issue has been going back and forth.

Palacios said he was in the Legislature when the parking meters were installed. "And that thing was not free. Nobody wanted to take ownership of who's [going to] get it done," he said.

The governor said that parking in Garapan is going to continue to be an issue so he is hoping that the new Zoning board will do more inspections of activities and enforcements of some of the laws and regulations to keep the place in order.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, August 28, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., at the DLNR Building (Scholarship Office), San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of the Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes
  - (Regular Meeting)

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS*
III. OLD BUSINESS
IV. NEW BUSINESS
- A. Review & Approval of Fall 2023 Scholarship Applications
- B. Welcoming of Denise Cruz as our TMS Office administrator/Supervisor

V. MISCELLANEOUS
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VII. ADJOURNMENT

/S/Rodney S. Cabarles
Chairman

[1] We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
[3] Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

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PORK ST. LOUIS RIBS NOW! $5.99/LB WAS: $8.09
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URGENT

From page 1

Palacios also recommended to the Committee on Natural Resources for the U.S. Congress to revisit the provisions of the Covenant between the U.S. and the CNMI, specifically Section 702, which provides direct financial assistance for the CNMI government operations, capital improvement, and economic development.

The governor offered these recommendations in his testimony during the committee's oversight field hearing in Guam that was held at the Hilton Hotel in Tamuning.

Presided over by committee chair Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), the hearing examined the importance of U.S. territories and the Freely Associated States to the United States' ability to counter the People's Republic of China's influence in the region and maintain the nation's strategic interests in this part of the globe.

At the oversight hearing, Palacios was joined in the first panel by Guam Gov. Lourdes Leon Guerrero, Republic of Palau Minister of Finance Kaleb Udui Jr., Federated States of Micronesia Department of Foreign Affairs acting Secretary Ricky Cantero, and Republic of the Marshall Islands Majuro Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Jack Ading.

Witnesses in Panel 2 were Guam National Guard Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Michael W. Cruz, U.S. Army (retired) Brig. Gen. Roderick R. Leon Guerrero, Guam Legislature Vice Speaker Tina Barnes, and World War II survivor Irene Sgambelluri.

Palacios said to strengthen its security architecture in the Pacific, and to bolster defenses against the Chinese Community Party's threats, the U.S. should expand its engagement with all of the island jurisdictions, and increase support for the economic and social development of these communities.

On the touchback provision, Palacios said the CNMI is currently facing a workforce shortage that threatens its economic recovery.

While the CNMI fully appreciates the federal government's considerable financial assistance for infrastructure improvements, Palacios said the Commonwealth will not be able to carry out most of these projects because of its labor challenges.

He noted that the touchback provision would require a significant portion of the workforce to exit the Commonwealth for an indefinite period while they wait for new work permits to be processed.

Palacios said the touchback provision could not come at a worse time for the Commonwealth as this will further deepen the CNM's economic vulnerability in the region.

Relative to the workforce shortage challenge, the governor asked for the committee's support of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (D-MP) legislation, H.R. 560, the Population Stabilization Act, which aims to shore up the eroding population and workforce of the CNMI by providing stability and permanent residency to the Commonwealth's long-term foreign workers.

Further, Palacios asked Congress to pass legislation that recognizes the unique challenges that confront Pacific island communities and make changes to federal policy that hinder economic and social development.

For instance, he said, while they understand and support the goals of the Build America, Buy America Act, this policy is untenable for insular areas in the Pacific Islands when it makes the sourcing of equipment and supplies extremely cost-prohibitive and when it is exceedingly difficult for small island territories to compete with the bigger states in procurement.

"A blanket BABA waiver from Congress across the federal family would efficiently resolve the issue, and allow the territories to access closer markets with allied nations so that our projects can move forward," Palacios said.

In relation to this and other challenges, the governor also asked for the committee's support of the bipartisan H.R. 5001, which would place special advisors for the insular areas in every executive department of the federal government to ensure that the concerns of island communities are considered in federal-decision-making.

Finally, Palacios asked Congress to establish the Northern Marianas as America's diplomatic center in Micronesia, which can be supported by a network of national security advisors across the territories and Freely Associated States.

He said these networks would offer critical support for territorial governors and Micronesian heads of state, and build capacity to effectively respond to difficult and destabilizing problems, such as illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and organized crime.

Palacios said the stability of America's territories and allies in Micronesia are inseparable from national security and peace in the region.

"Help us help ourselves, so we are stronger partners in bolstering national security and ensuring that the Pacific remains a haven of peace, prosperity, and freedom," he said.

In the opening part of his testimony, Palacios said it is in the interest of national and global security for the U.S. government to protect and fortify its Pacific territories and allies of the Freely Associated States of Micronesia against the growing threat of the CCP.

The governor expressed happiness to see the U.S. is at last close to completing negotiations to renew all of the Compacts of Free Association.

He noted that the U.S. territories of the Northern Marianas, Guam, and American Samoa firmly anchor America's position in the Pacific and, together with the Freely Associated States, create a vast corridor of peace and security that spans nearly three million square miles and connects to the seas of other allied nations.

Recognizing the strategic importance of America's territories and allies in Micronesia, the CCP has moved aggressively to fill perceived voids in American assistance and to capitalize on the social and economic vulnerabilities of Pacific island communities, Palacios said.

"We see that aggression in massive investments in infrastructure and economic development. We see it in land grabs and fisheries expansions," he said, as well as in research vessels lurking around the undersea fiber optic cables, in organized crime, public corruption, and political interference.

During times of economic hardship and vulnerability in the Northern Marianas, they too have turned to Chinese investment for solutions, he said. In fact, for almost 40 years now, the People's Republic of China has had a firm foothold in the islands, he added.

"Chinese investors were always conveniently there when we needed them, offering new industries and revenue sources that also directly or indirectly advanced the interests of the PRC in the Marianas," the governor said.

Palacios said when the garment industry shut down in early 2000s, the Commonwealth lost a major source of revenue, and drastic austerity measures had a deeply destabilizing effect.

To make up for the loss, he said, the CNMI turned to Chinese tourism and to Chinese casino gambling. For a brief period then, Chinese tourism and gambling revenues propped up the Commonwealth's government and economy., the governor said

"But this was short-lived and had unfortunate consequences," said Palacios, adding that today, Chinese tourism has dried up and the casino has shut down.

Palacios said the Commonwealth economy continues to struggle, and the government is in deep fiscal distress.

"These are conditions that make the Commonwealth again acutely vulnerable to CCP exploitation," he said.

The field hearing was called "Peace Through Strength: The Strategic Importance of the Pacific Islands to U.S.-led Global Security."

EARTHQUAKE BRIEFS

5.4-magnitude earthquake

At 2pm on Aug. 24, 2023, a report of a 5.4-magnitude earthquake occurred 21.783°N 145.906°E. Currently, there are no reports of injuries or damages and no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

4.7-magnitude earthquake near Merizo

At 4:43pm on Aug. 23, 2023, a report of a 4.7-magnitude earthquake occurred 114 kilometers south-southwest of Merizo village in Guam. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center did not issue any tsunami warnings or advisories. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

5.4-magnitude quake west of San Jose

At 09:23am on Aug. 20, 2023, a report of a 5.4-magnitude earthquake occurred 134 kilometers west of San Jose Village in the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no reports of injuries or damages and no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

FUKUSHIMA

From page 1

preparations and testing have cleared safety standards and the release will begin in the early afternoon.

The release will begin more than 12 years after the meltdowns of three reactors at the plant that was heavily damaged by the massive earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan's northeastern coast on March 11, 2011. Radioactive water—both seeping groundwater and water used to cool the reactors—have accumulated at the site ever since, and TEPCO and the government say the mass quantities of the water have hampered the daunting task of removing the deadly toxic melted debris from the reactors.

"The release of the ... treated water is a significant milestone as part of the huge task of decommissioning," Matsumoto said, noting the tremendous risks involving the remaining work that still remain.

The final step before the release began Tuesday when just 1 ton of treated water was sent from one of the site's many storage tanks to be diluted with 1,200 tons of seawater, and the mixture was kept in the primary pool for two days for final sampling, Matsumoto said. The tritium levels from those samples were significantly safer than the legally releasable levels, Matsumoto said.

He added the mild sea conditions off the plant allows seawater sampling by boat hours after the release, and North Korea's failed rocket launch early Thursday morning did not affect Fukushima.

The water treatment process can reduce the amounts of more than 60 other radionuclides to government-set releasable levels, except for tritium, which the government and TEPCO say is safe for humans if consumed in small amounts.

A batch of 460 tons of water will be sent to the mixing pool Thursday for the actual discharge.

Thursday's release was to begin with the least radioactive water to ensure safety, Matsumoto said.

Japan's government announced the release of the water into the sea in 2021, and it has faced strong protests, especially from Japanese fisheries groups, while groups in South Korea and China also raised concern, making it a political and diplomatic issue.

Conservation groups and other activists were among those protesting outside of TEPCO's headquarters in Tokyo and a number of locations in Fukushima as the announcement of the final preparations being complete was made.

The water that has accumulated at the plant since the 2011 disaster is partly recycled to keep the damaged reactors cool, since the tsunami destroyed the plant's cooling systems. But the rest of the water is stored in about 1,000 large tanks, which are already filled to 98% of their 1.37-million ton capacity.

Those tanks cover much of the plant complex, which needs the space to build new facilities that will be needed to continue the decommissioning of the plant, officials said. They have also said the release is necessary to prevent accidental leaks of the untreated, undiluted water, which exceeds the government's safety limits.

TEPCO plans to release 31,200 tons of the treated water by the end of March 2024, which would empty only 10 tanks because the contaminated continues to accumulate, though the pace of the release will later pick up.

$100K

From page 1

now facing charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, and disturbing the peace.

During his bail hearing yesterday, Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan imposed a $100,000 cash bail on Diaz and ordered him to return to court on Aug. 30, for a preliminary hearing. He will be arraigned on Sept. 18. Diaz was remanded back to Department of Corrections custody.

According to court documents, the sexual abuse Diaz is being accused of was not reported by the victim, but by the victim's boyfriend. The victim's boyfriend reportedly called the police around Wednesday midnight because his girlfriend told him she was contemplating suicide because Diaz had allegedly sexually abused her.

After meeting with the caller, police managed to get the victim's home address and they went over to speak with her.

At the victim's residence, police said the victim came out and whispered to them to get her out as she did not feel safe.

Police said Diaz appeared a few moments later and, as he was approaching, the victim started shouting. Police noted that she crying and shaking as Diaz spoke to her.

Shortly after, the victim's mother appeared asking what happened and the police said the victim continued to yell and cry, claiming Diaz has sexually abused her.

Division of Youth and Child Protective Services later arrived at the home and interviewed the victim.

The victim told the CPS officer that Diaz sexually abused her om Aug. 22, at around 11pm. She noted that it was the first time he had done that and she told her boyfriend about it a few hours later.

Diaz was arrested at around 1:33am on Aug. 23 on sexual abuse charges.

The victim was transported to the Commonwealth Health Center where she was seen by a sexual assault nurse examiner and admitted to the Pediatric Ward for suicide watch.

70-month prison term pushed for drug smuggler

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government, through assistant U.S. Attorney Albert Flores Jr., is proposing a 70-month sentence for a man who recently pleaded guilty to smuggling nearly five lbs. of drugs into the CNMI through the U.S. Postal Service.

Flores filed Wednesday his sentencing memorandum where he proposed that the District Court for the NMI sentence Zhang Yuzhu to 70 months in prison.

"The government recommends defendant be sentenced to 70 months incarceration with credit for time served. This is the lowest end of the projected sentencing guidelines, and commensurate with the defendant's plea agreement," he said.

In addition, Flores said he consulted with the defense and, based on that consultation, the defense will also be recommending an incarceration period of 70 months.

"Of note, it is the government's understanding based on consultation with defense counsel on Aug. 17, a recommendation of 70 months incarceration will also be the position of the defendant at the sentencing hearing," Flores said.

Defense lawyer David Banes also filed a sentencing memorandum on Wednesday proposing a 70-month incarceration for Zhang.

Zhang is scheduled to be sentenced today.

Zhang, 48, was accused of attempting to smuggle from California through the mail 4.9 lbs of methamphetamine. The seized contraband had a street value of approximately $700,000.

Zhang was also charged in the local court with importation of contraband, trafficking, and possession of a controlled substance.

The defendant has since pleaded guilty to the charges filed against him in federal court, but the charges filed against him in the local court remains pending.

According to Saipan Tribune archives, the contraband was discovered on March 19 during a routine Customs inspection of a large parcel addressed to Zhang. Inside the parcel, Customs officer Franklin Sablan saw three wooden cases containing chinaware. Upon further inspection of the wooden cases, Sablan noticed a square object wrapped in duct tape under the chinaware inside the wooden case. While examining the square object, the officer noticed white crystalline substance spilling into the wooden case.

After procuring the parcel and its contents as evidence, the items were transported to the Customs office at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for processing and testing, where it turned out positive for methamphetamine.

NWS: Heavy rain less likely this weekend

Widespread heavy rainfall less likely through the weekend, according to the National Weather Service in Guam.

Although some locally heavy showers and thunderstorms may produce brief periods of ponding of water on the roads, or minor flooding in poor drainage areas, the risk of widespread heavy rainfall through the weekend isn't a big concern, according to NWS information compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, with Guam having the best chance of seeing this occur through at least Saturday night.

However, as Tropical Depression 08W, currently to the east-northeast of the CNMI, slowly strengthens as it heads toward the northern part of the CNMI, a southwesterly monsoon flow will develop early next week, when widespread heavy rainfall may become more of a concern. ***(PR)***

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARRIVAL TERMINAL RESTROOM DRAINAGE REPAIRS PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the Arrival Terminal Restroom Drainage Repairs at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-001-23.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at receptionist@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Prater via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 1, 2023 CHST.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications by no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 (CHST).** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: August 8, 2023

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TO SUPPORT AFFORDABLE HOUSING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Two CNMI nonprofits are awarded more than $95K

DES MOINES, Iowa—More than $95,000 has been awarded to two nonprofit agencies in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to support affordable housing and community development needs. This outreach is available through the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, or FHLB Des Moines, which has partnered with two member financial institutions: Bank of Guam and Bank of Hawaii.

The Member Impact Fund is a matching grant program designed to offer financial support for affordable housing and community development initiatives in targeted areas of the FHLB Des Moines district. The fund, which totals $15 million, is a nearly $3-to-$1 match of financial member donations. The program was available to member financial institutions to support eligible organizations located in Hawaii, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, and the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bank of Guam and the Bank of Hawaii received matching grants from the MIF to assist two local non-profit organizations: Micronesia Community Development Organization and Karidat Social Services.

Bank of Guam received more than $65,000 from the MIF and contributed more than $21,000 in addition to support MCDC, who provides homeownership counseling and affordable housing options for purchase and rental.

"We selected MCDC to receive the MIF grant because they are a valuable resource, focused on facilitating homeownership for the residents of Micronesia. MCDC addresses a fundamental need—providing a tangible solution that resonates deeply within the community," said Bank of Guam chief sales officer Keven Camacho.

Karidat also received nearly $8,500 through the MIF. Karidat is one of the primary safety net social service providers in the CNMI. It provides a range of victim services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. It also provides emergency food and rental assistance. According to Karidat executive director Lauri Ogumoro, the grant will be used to support the staff who carry out the programs. "Karidat is grateful to the Bank of Hawaii and FHLB Des Moines for remembering us and the people we serve," she said.

The Member Impact Fund is part of FHLB Des Moines' ongoing mission to offer a variety of funding options through its members to support affordable housing and community development needs.

"We are thrilled to see grants from our MIF having a direct, positive impact on the communities in which our members help advance affordable housing and community development needs in a meaningful way," said Kris Williams, president and CEO of FHLB Des Moines.

According to Camacho, the long-lasting partnership between Bank of Guam and FHLB Des Moines shows how powerful working together can be. "This collaboration is more than just financial tools. It's a way for the Bank of Guam to show its commitment to improving communities, fostering economic growth and practicing responsible banking," he said. "As this partnership continues, it strengthens Bank of Guam's position as a trusted financial institution and reinforces its role as a positive force for change in people's lives and the communities they belong to."

Learn more about the MIF at www.fhlbdm.com/products-services/affordable-housing/member-impact-fund. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that there will be Board Committee Meetings on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

COMMITTEE AGENDAS

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (July 28, 2023)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business:
1. Audit Corrective Action Update
IV. New Business:
1. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget
2. Supplemental Budget Request: Operational Expenses
3. Supplemental Budget Request and Sanctioning: Rota Airport Drainage Improvements Construction Change Order 1
4. Updated Financial Affairs Committee Report
   a. Grants Report
   b. Internal Auditor Report
V. Executive Session
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (July 28, 2023)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business:
1. Public-Private Partnership
2. Master Concession
3. Amelia Earhart Monument
IV. New Business:
1. Authority Concession Grant (CPA-RFP-005-23) Rota
2. Tinian Advertising
   a. Procurement Method
   b. Determination of Scope
   c. Evaluation Plan
3. Updated Airport Facilities Committee Report
V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

SEAPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (July 28, 2023)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business:
1. Ports Police Citation Enforcement
2. Echo Dock
IV. New Business:
1. Updated Seaport Facilities Committee Report
V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (July 28, 2023)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business:
1. Drug Policy
2. Supervisor Evaluation/Desk Audit
3. Contract Management Desk Audit/Performance Audit
IV. New Business:
1. Updated Personnel Affairs Committee Report
V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom. Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

Kimberlyn King-Hinds
Airport Facilities Interim Chair

Ramon A. Tebuteb
Financial Affairs Chair

Pete P. Reyes
Seaport Facilities Chair

Joseph M. Diaz
Personnel Affairs Chair

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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (July 28, 2023)
II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)
III. CORRESPONDENCES
IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
1. Financial Affairs Committee (with Grants and Internal Auditor Reports)
2. Airport Facilities Committee
3. Seaport Facilities Committee
4. Personnel Affairs Committee
V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
VI. OLD BUSINESS
1. Public-Private Partnership
2. Drug Policy
3. Supervisor Evaluation/Desk Audit
4. Contract Management Desk Audit/Performance Audit
5. Master Concession
6. Ports Police Citation Enforcement
7. Echo Dock
VII. NEW BUSINESS
1. Election of Vice Chairman
2. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget
3. Supplemental Budget Request: Operational Expenses
4. Supplemental Budget Request and Sanctioning: Rota Airport Drainage Improvements Construction Change Order 1
5. Authority Concession Grant (CPA-RFP-005-23) Rota
6. Tinian Advertising
   a. Procurement Method
   b. Determination of Scope
   c. Evaluation Plan
VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom. Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS,
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID
ITB23-CHCC/CGC-SPP-019

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)

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INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL ANO TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Diploma/GED or foreign equivalent is acceptable;
- Applicants must be able to provide qualifying certifications for U.S. Standard of Practice; and
- Minimum of three (3) years-experience in fuel tank welding with SMAW and TIG 6G Processes.

WORKING CONDITIONS:
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- Travel within the islands of the CNMI (Rota & Tinian) and the Territory of Guam to perform the job duties at constructions sites where Employer's services are required or have been contracted.

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Shawn Curtis Holt, General Manager
General Asia Pacific Construction, LLC
World War II Lane, Garapan
PMB 430 Box 10001
Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no. 1 (541) 704-8364
E-mail: shawn.holt@gapconfuels.com

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Two burglaries reported in a week

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Crime Stoppers is asking the community for help in identifying and locating individuals involved in two separate burglaries that were reported this week.

The first incident happened last Monday, Aug. 21. The Department of Public Safety received a call at about 7:28am reporting a burglary at the Department of Fire and Medical Services grant office at Building #1348 on Capital Hill.

Responding officers discovered that the suspect(s) had broken into an office space window and had stolen multiple items.

During the inventory, office personnel noted that a 65-inch LG flatscreen TV, an Echo water blaster, and a speaker were missing, with a combined estimated value of $2,000.

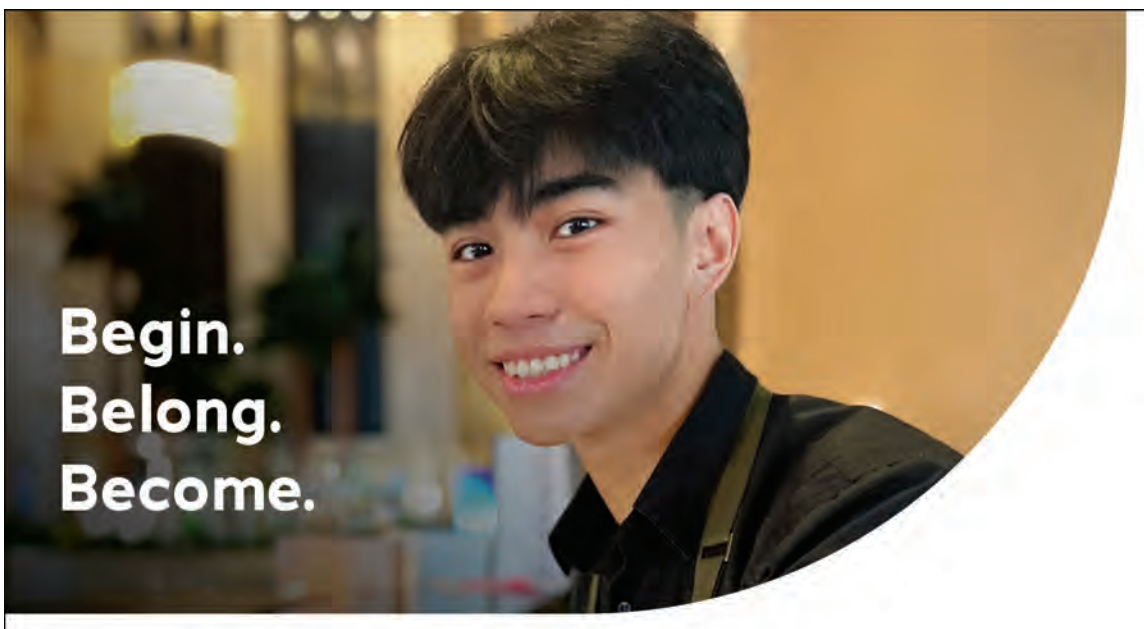
The second incident happened last Tuesday, Aug. 22. DPS received a call at around 7:53am about a burglary at the Pho Tam Restaurant in Garapan. The caller told responding officers that the suspect(s) had forced their way through a small window at the back of the building. The caller reported that the cash register was missing and the back door was open.

During the inventory, victims discovered that an Apple MacBook, three Apple iPads, the cash register with about $1,000 in it, and the interior CCTV security camera system were missing.

Crime Stoppers is asking the public's assistance with any information that may help DPS' investigation in this burglary incidents.

SINMI DONATION
Soroptimist International of the NMI donates to Karidat Social Services as part of its Annual Back to School donation. From left, SNMI president Maureen Sebangiol, acting Karidat executive director Judith Pangelinan, Guma Esperanza shelter coordinator Elisa Ada, and SINMI secretary Pam Brown. The donation is intended to benefit the children at the Guma Esperanza, which is the Karidat's women's and children's shelter.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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Manibusan joins coalition urging protection for domestic abuse victims

Attorney General Edward Manibusan has joined a coalition of 25 attorneys general to urge the U.S. Supreme Court to reverse a lower court's decision striking down a federal statute barring individuals subject to domestic violence restraining orders from accessing guns.

Manibusan joined the coalition in filing an amicus brief yesterday in support of the federal government in the Supreme Court case, United States v. Rahimi.

Federal law bars people subject to domestic violence restraining orders from possessing firearms. The defendant in Rahimi—who was under a domestic violence restraining order issued by a state court in Texas for assaulting his girlfriend—challenged the statute on the ground that it violates the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit issued an opinion earlier this year agreeing. Manibusan and the coalition are asking the Supreme Court to overrule the lower court and restore the federal law.

"Protection of human life and public safety should always be of utmost importance. The accessibility of firearms causes a potential rise of domestic violence involving weapons. Our office remains dedicated to proactively advocating and aiding victims of domestic violence and will continue to monitor and strictly enforce our gun laws for the safety and protection of the community," said Manibusan.

Manibusan

In addition to the federal law, nearly every state in the country has enacted a law limiting access to firearms for those subject to domestic violence restraining orders. Manibusan and the attorneys general argue that the appeals court ruling puts at risk domestic violence victims who may be harmed or killed by their abusers.

In addition, the ruling hamstrings both the federal government and states in their efforts to protect their residents' safety. The CNMI Office of the Attorney General drafted the "Special Act for Firearms Enforcement" or "SAFE Act," which governs the regulation of firearm possession in the Commonwealth, which was passed into law in April 2016. This bill relied heavily on states that had the most restrictive gun control statutes in the nation. Within the same year, Manibusan drafted the "Second Special Act for Firearms Enforcement" or "SAFE ACT II," which modernized the Commonwealth's existing firearm laws; SAFE ACT II was passed in December 2016. Since the passage of these laws, there have been nine domestic violence cases involving firearms.

This brief is Manibusan's most recent action to address gun violence throughout the CNMI and across the nation.

Joining Manibusan in filing the brief are the attorneys general of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin. The chief state's attorney of Connecticut also joined this brief. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP23-CHCC/CAS-019

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)
"PROCUREMENT OF MOBILE OPEN MRI"
(Outright Purchase, Shipping, Delivery, Installation, Training, and Commissioning)
for CHCC Hospital Department

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit bid proposals and their qualifications for the Thomas Camacho Mendiola Commercial Seaport Commercial Marina Perimeter Fencing, Project No. CPA-RS-001-23, for the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"THOMAS CAMACHO MENDIOLA COMMERCIAL SEAPORT COMMERCIAL MARINA PERIMETER FENCING, CPA-SS-001-23"* and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2023**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing.

The Project, in general, consists of the Marina Perimeter Fencing including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable unless this notice to bidders is cancelled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order, made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA's point of contact mentioned below immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and are to verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at Ports Manager's Confernce Room, located at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport on the island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), at **10:00 A.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2023,** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. **Attendance is Mandatory.** A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Mr Alex C. Tudela, Procurement Officer at atudela@cnmiports.com with copy to Fermin R. Flores at ferminf@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased a DVD and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days.** Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS PER CALENDAR DAY ($100.00)** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-26 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all local and Federal requirements under this procurement.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date:

Broadband office on Tinian to solicit feedback

The Broadband Policy & Development Office under the Office of the Governor will be holding a stakeholder engagement meeting on Tinian today, Aug. 25, from 5pm to 6pm at the Tinian Public Library.

The BPD through the CNMI Office of the Governor has been established with financial support and guidance for the National Telecommunications & Information Administration's Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program. The BPD is tasked with implementing broadband deployment, equity planning, and exploring implementation opportunities.

At present, the BPD is currently crafting the BEAD Five-Year Action Plan. During this process, the BPD is reaching out to stakeholders for comments, insight, and collaboration.

Each week a virtual meeting is held to discuss different facets of the action plan. This week's in-person meeting will focus primarily on the broadband internet needs of the island of Tinian. If on Tinian, join us at this important in-person meeting. ***(PR)***

PUTI'ON TWIN HULL
NOTICE OF AUCTION/BIDDING
MINIMUM BID: $15,000.00

Year: 1984; Official No. 677731; Call Sign: WCZ5662; Service: Passenger
Hull Material: Wood; Horsepower: 530; Propulsion: Diesel
Gross Tonnage: 99 GRT; Net Tonnage: 85 NRT; Length: 83.6; Breadth: 30.0; Depth: 11.0

For more information

Pursuant to the Stipulated Judgment in Commonwealth Ports Authority v. Saipan Sea Ventures, Inc., Civ. No. 18-0498, notice is given of the auction of the vessel owned by Saipan Sea Ventures, Inc., to be sold at auction by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Risk of loss remains with Saipan Sea Ventures, Inc. until the winning bidder's bid is approved by the Commonwealth Superior Court after which time the winning bidder shall assume ownership and responsibility for the vessel. By submitting a bid and if accepted, the winning bidder agrees to accept full risk and responsibility of the vessel once approved by the Commonwealth Superior Court, including compliance with CNMI and Federal/USCG laws and regulations.

Please contact Commonwealth Ports Authority counsel, Robert T. Torres at (670) 234-7859/234-5750, Email: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com. **Minimum bid for the Puti'on Twin Hull is $15,000.00.** Any bid(s) less than the minimum bid will be rejected. Bid submissions will be closed at 4:30 pm on **September 7, 2023.** Bid(s) opening shall be at 4:30 p.m. on **September 8, 2023.** The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any and all offer(s). A "Puti'on Twin Hull" bid form can be obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority, through its Counsel at Robert T. Torres Law Office, Chalan Kiya P.O. Box 500730 CK Saipan, MP 96950.

Bid Instructions

1. This is a private auction/bidding on behalf of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidding is conducted through the Law Office of Robert T. Torres using a written/sealed bid process. However, the Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any and all offers including any offer not determined to be commercially reasonable. Bids may be sealed and submitted to the Law Office of Robert T. Torres in Chalan Kiya, Saipan with a copy valid Identification Card or Passport.
2. The Puti'on Twin Hull is offered for bid and sale **"As Is"** and without any warranty or guarantee as to fitness for use and each bidder is on notice to research this specialized and particular unit as a twin hull motor craft and the conditions in which it may be used in the CNMI or in other locations.
3. If a bid is accepted, the winning bidder shall tender the full amount upon notice and shall be responsible for the removal of the vessel within three (3) working days of court approval. Otherwise, the next highest bidder shall be considered.
4. A winning bid shall be paid by Cash or Cashier's Check within three (3) working days of notice to the winning bidder. Personal checks/company checks are not accepted. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel the bid and resell/re-auction the unit.
5. Inspection: Any person wishing to inspect the Puti'on Twin Hull may contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres to request an inspection at least two (2) days prior to inspection.
6. **ALL BIDS ARE FINAL.**

Saipan council's Tudela prods DPL on Pagan resettlement

Antonia Manibusan Tudela, who is vice chairwoman of the 17th Saipan Municipal Council, is urging Public Lands Secretary Teresita Santos to immediately release—without further delay or excuse—pending quitclaim deeds on any and all applications that have been filed for over two decades by residents of the Northern Islands of Gani, who worked the land and fished its surrounding waters, their statutory claim to village homestead deeds, including their statutory claim to agricultural waiver homestead, pursuant to Public Law 1-42 as amended and Public Law 2-13, among applicable provisions of law.

In line with this, Tudela introduced council resolution 17SNIMC05 this month at the advice and consent hearing conducted by the council at the Chalan Kanoa Leadership Kiosku Courtyard on Northern Islands Mayor Valentino Taisacan's nomination of Kodep Ogumoro Uludong to the Public Land Advisory Board.

The municipal council is established in Article VI of the CNMI Constitution, and is expressly granted advice and consent authority by Public Land 15-2 on mayoral nominees to the board.

In its advice and consent recommendation report, the council's Committee on Government Appointments found that Uludong possesses the requisite qualification, leadership skills and the integrity to perform his duties as a member of the Public Lands Advisory Board under the DPL secretary as a representative of the people of Gani Islands in the Third Senatorial District of the Northern Islands.

Tudela stated that it has been five decades since the existence of a homestead program in the CNMI, and the residency requirement by Gani Islands residents has long been established by families who have inhabited the chain of islands before the Japanese occupation and use of the Northern Islands.

Tudela further stated that residents of the Northern Islands have long been represented by Saipan elected officials in Election Precinct 3 and presently by Saipan elected representatives of Election Precinct 4, and that for five decades elected the mayor of the Northern Islands.

"These native residents have long been displaced and dislocated not by choice but by government edict, yet these residents have not lost their sense of place and identity and their spiritual and physical connection to their ancestral lands in the Northern Islands of Gani," Tudela said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Islands Mayor Valentino Taisacan, standing third from left, joins members of the 17th Saipan Municipal Council and others at the Kiusko Memorial Courtyard in Chalan Kanoa.

Municipal Council Resolution 17SNIMC05 expresses sympathy for the plight of Gani residents and join all former and present mayors in unity by urging real action by Public Land Secretary Teresita A. Santos to once and for all put closure to the permanent resettlement of Gani residents to return back to their ancestral homeland without more delays ad infinitum, by immediately issuing quitclaim deeds to any and all applications that have been pending for over two decades. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF DCRM PUBLIC HEARING
CNMI UNITED INVESTMENT CORPORATION, LTD.
CONSTRUCTION OF RETAINING WALL & SHORELINE REVETMENT PROJECT

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the following project:

CRM Major Siting Application No. SMS-2023-085 – The CNMI United Investment Corporation, Ltd. is proposing to construct two retaining walls and sheet pile on Lot No. 013 D 38 in Garapan, Saipan.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled on **Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 5:00PM, at the DCRM Learning Center 3rd Floor, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.**

Virtual public participation is available via video conferencing through Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j (Meeting ID: 6706648315). Our Zoom meeting access code may change, please call the DCRM Permitting Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance at least one-day prior to the public hearing date.

If you are unable to attend virtually or in-person, written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Permitting Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp. The project file is open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project. Please contact Ms. Sam Sablan at the DCRM Permitting Office at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the CNMI United Investment Corporation, Ltd. Retaining Wall and Shoreline Revetment Project.

/s/ Richard V. Salas
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP23-GOV/OGM-42300087

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"2023 ENERGIZING INSULAR COMMUNITIES 150 KW EXECUTIVE BUILDING SOLAR PV DESIGN-BUILT PROJECT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE TO THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 TO MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR. VIA EMAIL AT epi.cabrera@gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPHIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR
ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Trump should not have to pay bail

Donald Trump is due to appear at the Fulton County jail in Atlanta on Thursday for the usual booking procedures for a person charged with multiple felonies: Surrender to authorities. Pose for a mug shot. Get fingerprinted. Undergo a medical exam. Pay bail.

Bail is set at $200,000, and as is typical in such cases, Trump is expected to pay 10% of that to a private bail agent or directly to the court. Several others charged along with Trump in the Georgia racketeering case over the attempt to overturn his 2020 election defeat have already appeared, paid and been released.

But Trump shouldn't have to pay. None of his co-defendants should have to pay.

No one, in fact, should ever have to pay cash bail. The system has strayed far from the original practice inherited from medieval England, where bail was a substitute for being jailed before trial. It was a security deposit to ensure the accused showed up in court, and it was fully refunded when they did. Today, in the U.S., bail is an unjust and nonsensical part of the criminal justice process that allocates treatment differently depending on how much money the accused has, not on their behavior, their risk to the public or their guilt.

For Trump and others with ready access to money, bail is merely a charade—one that provides the comforting illusion that the rich and powerful are equal to the rest of us before the law, and are treated the same as others accused of crimes.

But that's just silly. The notion that Trump's $20,000 payment will determine whether he shows up for later proceedings is absurd. His money comes from political donors. Payment is a mere ritual.

If he doesn't violate his release conditions (including not pressuring witnesses) there is little prospect of him seeing the inside of a cell—at least not before trial. He won't spend a night in the notorious Rice Street facility, where seven people have died this year, fights and stabbings are common, and the U.S. Department of Justice is investigating horrid conditions.

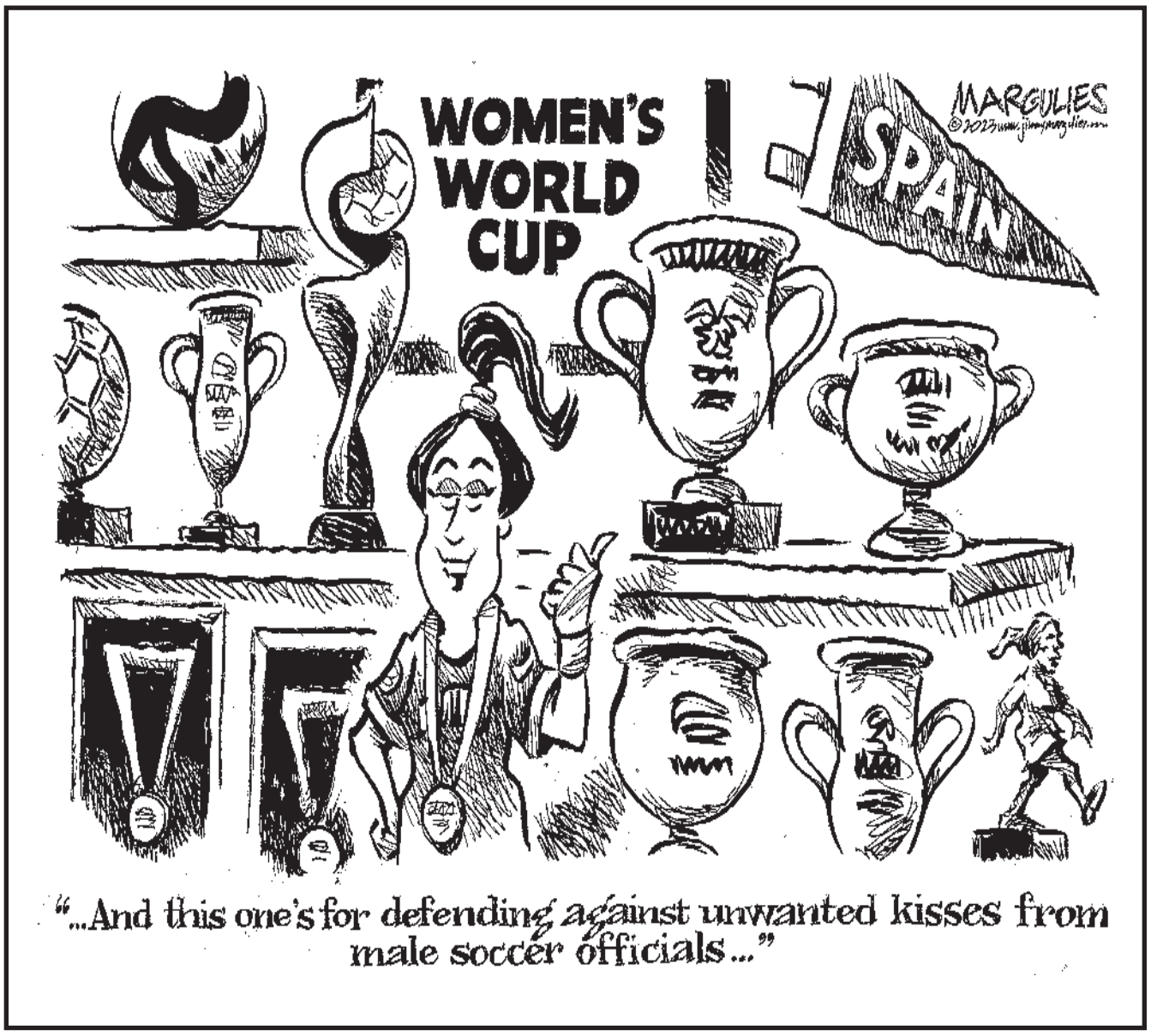
It's a different matter for defendants without that kind of cash to throw around. For example, consider Lashawn Thompson, who was arrested last year for allegedly spitting on an officer and was sent to Fulton County jail because he could not afford his $2,500 bail for misdemeanor battery, or 10% of that to pay a bail agent who would promise to cover the full amount.

Thompson remained in the decrepit Rice Street dungeon for months, his already compromised mental health declining, his body attacked by beg bugs. If he had even a fraction of Trump's money, he'd have gone home to be treated and to prepare a legal defense. But Thompson died in jail, never having gone to trial. He was accused only of spitting, not undermining democracy.

Montay Stinson faced a $3,000 bail when he was arrested on charges of second-degree burglary in October. Qualifying for bail meant that he was considered unlikely to flee or to injure anyone if released before trial. But because he couldn't pay, he stayed locked up in the Rice Street facility. His body was found there earlier this month.

Alexander Hawkins was held on an unaffordable $5,000 bail on suspicion of shoplifting. He died in the Rice Street jail last week.

See TRUMP on Page 11



An effective scorecard for political accountability

By BRUCE BOND and ERIK OLSEN
THE FULCRUM

Scorecards are typically a tool for measuring progress towards a particular goal. At Common Ground Committee (CGC) our goal is to reduce polarization. One of the ways to do that is to help increase the frequency of bipartisanship exhibited within our political leadership. Doing so creates overall favorable outcomes for our country and our democracy. We need to calm the waters if we are going to move forward to address the serious problems facing our nation.

Imagine if we could create a tool to assess how well elected officials have demonstrated a willingness to bridge the partisan divide; showing they can work cooperatively toward making progress, rather than posturing strength through stubbornness and absolutism. Imagine also that this tool could not only shine a light on the value of finding common ground but also keep politicians accountable. In doing so, it would incentivize their efforts toward finding more progress and reducing division.

That tool exists, and it's gaining traction and relevance. It's called The Common Ground Scorecard. This powerful tool assigns a score to each U.S. senator, representative, governor, and now, presidential candidate, based on their past decisions and actions.

The Common Ground Scorecard measures the degree to which elected officials and candidates for office embody the spirit and practice of a Common Grounder; that is, someone who seeks points of agreement and solutions on social and political issues through productive engagement. The Scorecard does not assess issue positions, ideology, or any other qualifications.

The Scorecard's premise is that certain attributes are worth practicing, regardless of ideological or party leanings. These attributes include the willingness to put aside personal biases, seek solutions, listen to perspectives, accept facts, and be respectful of others with differing opinions. The Scorecard's methodology tracks both the incumbents' and challengers' behavior, showing the degree to which a candidate publicly supports the importance of common ground and bipartisanship through their speech, action, and track record.

The basis of our government, as envisioned by the founding fathers, was predicated on the expectation that people would learn to compromise – not on principles but on tactics and strategies; that finding common ground would be central to our form of government. Through this process, the majority would set the stage for our legislative system, but the needs of all parties would be heard in debates and considered in outcomes. CGC recognizes that people may not agree on fundamental principles and values. Yet, a way forward almost always can be found but it requires cooperation, compromise, and common ground.

Partisan gridlock in government may seem like the norm these days. But that's not the full story. Change is happening, right now. Many lawmakers and their staff agree that seeking common ground is the most effective and pragmatic approach to moving forward on critical issues facing the country, and they are concerned that more of it is not happening. As more and more elected officials are becoming aware of their scores, they want to see them rise. Now, they are coming to us and asking, "What can I do to improve my score?"

We meet with people in both political parties, and they're excited that someone's creating a platform that holds up bipartisanship as a desirable goal with tangible steps towards getting to a place of mutual respect, and progress. We are coming from an all-time low for political discord in our lifetime and need to rebuild the trust of the electorate. Voters are tired of ideological fights and the raincloud of rancor that hangs over the Hill. Our market research was designed to discover things that the electorate wants to see improved in the political landscape, and at the top of the list was, "Hold my elected officials accountable." Voters want the behavior to have repercussions. They are tired of rhetoric, rancor, and gridlock. There's a reason this demographic is called the exhausted majority.

An electorate coming off a pandemic deserves better than a toxic political environment. The Common Ground Scorecard provides political accountability that may be just what the doctor ordered.

Bruce Bond and Erik Olsen run Common Ground Committee, a nonpartisan organization that seeks to promote productive public discourse—mainly by hosting forums where prominent figures from each party discuss areas of agreement on a polarizing policy issue.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How to rebuild Lahaina's economy after the wildfire—without relying solely on tourists

By KEN WILLS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Even as rescue and recovery efforts proceed in Maui after the deadliest wildfire in modern U.S. history, it's not too soon to start thinking about how to rebuild the lives and properties in the devastated town of Lahaina.

Officials say that more than 80% of the structures in Lahaina, once the capital of Hawaii's royal court, were destroyed when the inferno swept through the community. Some of the buildings reduced to ashes or damaged reached back to Hawaii's whaling days and later to a shipping industry fueled by the islands' sugar industry.

As investigations continue into the cause of the fire and as the community mourns, Maui County and the survivors will face a huge challenge in the coming months and years: rebuilding their town and creating a new economic future, one less dependent on the kind of tourism that has been an economic engine for the island for decades.

In the past, tourists came, in part, to see the charming historic, wooden buildings that defined old Hawaii. That can never be restored. But future visitors might be attracted by a rebuilt Lahaina that showcases the latest advances in energy efficiency, blended and balanced mixes of commercial, residential, hotel, restaurant, shopping, pedestrian walkways and car-free zones.

Naturally, there will be pressure to rebuild as quickly as possible. And economic instincts will drive residents and officials to slap up new structures that perhaps mirror the old ones. But that will only result in re-creating a place that is a lesser shadow of its former self.

With federal and state aid that has already been pledged, insurance payments and collective thought and planning, the leaders of Lahaina can create a new vision for the town that takes into account a future altered by climate change, which was a factor in the drier conditions this year that fed the wildfires.

For instance, all new construction might be required to incorporate solar panels in this sun-blessed state. Town and county officials should consult urban planners who can offer cost-saving and design ideas that could create a vibrant city center, protected by a new fire-stopping ring to prevent another wildfire catastrophe. Because the fire wiped out the town's vegetation as well as buildings, new plantings should largely use native Hawaiian plants and species.

Officials could create new entertainment venues highlighting Hawaii's rich musical history and deep pool of talent. Open-air food markets and shops that don't rely on access by cars would allow visitors and residents to share the rich offering of local foods. New attractions might provide centers that feature Hawaiian seafaring and agricultural techniques, or others that educate visitors about the importance of oceans in Hawaiian history and the effects of global climate fluctuations.

Rebuilding housing for local workers will have to be a central mission since lack of housing has been a significant problem for Maui even before the fires. Other advancements in the infrastructure should also be explored, including vertical farming concepts, new methods of water preservation, and emergency communications networks that could operate throughout any future disruptions. (Rescue efforts in Lahaina were severely constrained because internet and cellphone service was disrupted).

A town that creates opportunities for local residents in non-tourist sectors can survive shocks, as during the COVID-19 pandemic, which demonstrated how overly dependent the community was on one industry.

Lahaina officials also have a chance to address historic wrongs by listening to the voices of native Hawaiians, whose interests are often trampled by the more powerful interests of landowners and the hotel and tourism industry. Current property ownership and legitimate land deeds have legal standing and must be respected. But community spaces can incorporate more culturally diverse uses and opportunities for local residents than they have in the past.

All of Lahaina is now sacred ground, and a new version of the town should include respectful sites and tributes to the original Hawaiian people and the victims of this calamity.

Rebuilding Lahaina in ways that put Hawaiian values of ohana and aloha front and center could lay the groundwork for visitors who seek the beauty of the islands but also want to learn about Hawaii's long history and witness the resiliency of a town that built back better and smarter.

Ken Wills is a writer based in Kapa'au on the island of Hawaii.

How to help animals and their people recover from catastrophes like the Maui fire

By SARAH DEYOUNG
LOS ANGELES TIMES

An estimated 3,000 pets were still missing more than a week after deadly wildfires ripped through Maui.

When disasters of this magnitude strike, people often flee with their pets if it's possible for them to quickly grab their dogs, cats or other kinds of companion animals. However, they may not have time to gather their animals during a quick-onset event like a wildfire, or their animals might be hiding. This is especially true for cats, because they can be skittish.

There are other complications, such as evacuation by boat—which makes it harder to bring animals along. When owners escape without a leash or carrier, their animals might bolt at any stopover or shelter.

Owners can spend weeks, months or even years after fires searching for their missing pets. It can be challenging to identify and match animals with their humans because burn injuries can change the animal's appearance, they may not have a microchip, or the owners themselves may have died.

Like people, animals that survive fires may experience trauma and stress symptoms, such as regressing on house-training or other issues. Pets may need to be treated for burn injuries or lung damage from inhaling smoke. Some animals don't survive.

These problems are particularly severe in Maui because islands have limited space for the boarding and care of displaced animals.

People who lose their housing for any reason may need to board their pets. Unfortunately, nearly all of Hawaii's animal shelters are already at full capacity due to the state's pet overpopulation, leaving little space available during emergencies.

Because of these challenges, animal-foster networks become key during and after disasters, when some lost pets will need new homes. It's critical to first make every effort to reunite lost animals with their owners and to hold animals long enough to allow their owners to retrieve their pets. And if lost pets die, every effort needs to be made to inform their owners, for whom these animals are part of their family.

In Hawaii, during the 2018 lava flows, I heard many people call their pets their "keiki"—the Hawaiian word for children. Improving animal welfare ultimately helps people deal with the trauma of disaster because of the intense bond between humans and their animals. The flip side is that people can experience severe psychological distress when their pets are killed, injured or lost. And some refuse to leave during disasters if they can't bring pets along. That's why emergency shelters should allow pets if possible. Hotels and other lodging providers should also consider temporarily waiving pet fees and relaxing restrictions on companion animals.

In my research with Ashley Farmer of Illinois State University, we found that sometimes people are forced to surrender their pets after disasters because they can't find temporary housing that allows dogs or cats, or due to breed restrictions. Some of these surrendered animals will have to be adopted or fostered to ensure that there is enough room in local shelters.

Animal lovers, seeing the catastrophe on Maui, may want to donate food, toys, dog crates and other physical items. But despite good intentions, sending items may not be helpful after disasters. Unless local shelters have robust distribution systems, the logistics of dealing with massive amounts of donated supplies can become overwhelming. Undistributed pet food, for example, can expire before it can be consumed.

The best way to help is to give money to organizations supporting local pets and their owners. Funds donated to groups like the Maui Humane Society can pay for needed goods and services over time, including spay and neuter surgeries and flea treatments.

Offering to adopt a "disaster pet" immediately is also not ideal, even if some animals might be relocated from the island eventually. Sending money increases the chances that the people and animals who are already bonded can stay together. Keep in mind that animal shelters and other organizations will still need help months after the media has moved on.

Losing a beloved cat, dog, rabbit, goat or turtle can be devastating at any time. During a disaster, the loss of a pet amplifies the overall horror of the event. Getting support from animal advocates in finding and reuniting with a missing pet can be a critical step toward recovery.

Sarah DeYoung, an associate professor at the University of Delaware, is the co-author of All Creatures Safe and Sound: The Social Landscape of Pets in Disasters. *This article was produced in partnership with the Conversation.*

TRUMP

From page 10

Thompson, Stinson and Hawkins were among hundreds of "pretrial" jail inmates in Fulton County—people who have not been convicted and who are not supposed to be punished, but merely held pending trial or other proceedings because they can't pay bail. Those who survive the experience stand to lose jobs, access to essential medication and contact with their children. The loss is so profound, and the conditions under which they are held so abhorrent, that many plead guilty just to get out—even if they are innocent.

Fulton County's system for extracting either money or guilty pleas from the accused is the U.S. norm. Thirty people have died this year in Los Angeles County jails, where well over half the inmates in the overcrowded, inhumane facilities are held pretrial. Most pretrial detainees are not free to go home because—and only because—they don't have money.

Trump is on the privileged flip side of that unjust wealth-based bail system. For him, bail is an easily affordable ransom that permits him to avoid the physical and psychiatric deterioration in store for people held in jail.

He shouldn't have to pay it, because no one should have to pay it. It makes perfect sense for a judge to impose behavior-based release conditions on Trump or any other defendant. It makes no sense at all to make one of those conditions paying bail, which means virtually nothing to the rich, but loss of liberty, and sometimes life, to the poor.

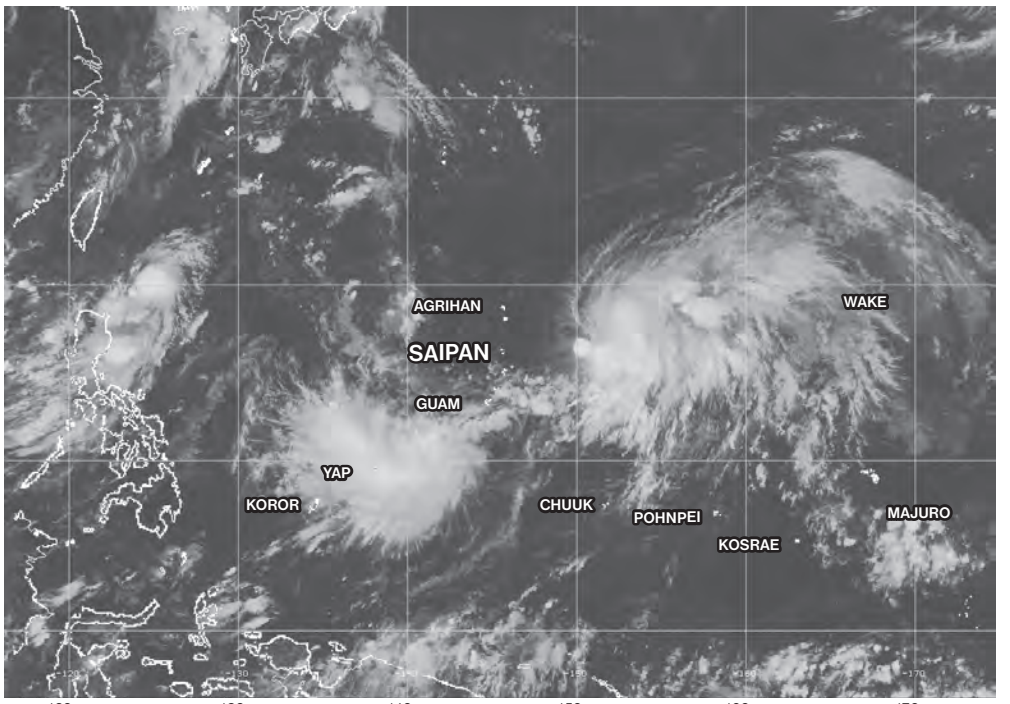
©2023 Los Angeles Times

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy,	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	Showers likely. Cloudy
88º / 79º	86º / 79º	86º / 79º	86º / 79º	86º / 78º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:04 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A developing monsoon pattern will cause an increased chance of shower activity across the Marianas through the coming weekend and into next week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:08 PM	-	-
Saturday	-	12:32 AM	2:10 PM
Sunday	-	1:30 AM	3:13 PM
Monday	-	2:35 AM	4:14 PM
Tuesday	-	3:42 AM	5:11 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	59° / 46°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	90° / 64°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	91° / 82°
Honolulu	Sunny	90° / 77°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	86° / 68°
Manila	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Melbourne	Rain	57° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorm	89° / 78°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 68°
Osaka	Showers	82° / 79°
Paris	Showers	93° / 66°
Busan	Rain	79° / 73°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	91° / 72°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	86° / 72°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	67° / 58°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	84° / 70°
Tokyo	Showers	84° / 79°
Washington, DC	Showers	80° / 70°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
8:03 AM	Low Tide	0.23
3:38 PM	High Tide	1.64
6:51 PM	Low Tide	1.27
8:08 PM	High Tide	1.41

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 21, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR 111	6:55AM	8:55AM	2, 6
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	Daily
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7
PR110	11:30PM	5:25AM+1	1, 5
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

DOJ awards $51.86M to support sexual assault victims' program

The U.S. Department of Justice announced yesterday the Office on Violence Against Women grant funding totaling $51,860,858 to provide victims of sexual assault with services in every state and the District of Columbia, as well as American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This marks a significant increase of nearly 45% when compared to last year's funding level.

OVW principal deputy director Allison Randall announced the 56 Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program awards in remarks at the National Sexual Assault Conference in San Francisco, California. These are funds that are made available through the implementation of the Violence Against Women Act.

"It is critically important that all victims of sexual assault are able to access support and safety. Research shows that the need for that support is substantial across our nation: more than half of women and nearly one-third of men experience sexual violence in their lifetimes, which is a truly staggering number," said associate attorney general Vanita Gupta. "This significant release of SASP funds reflects our unwavering resolve to combat sexual assault. It represents our dedication to supporting rape crisis centers and other organizations that provide trauma-informed services and counseling, training advocates and ensuring that every survivor receives assistance tailored to their unique needs. We're not just investing in services; we're investing in dignity, healing and justice for every survivor."

"While we face significant challenges as a nation in preventing and addressing sexual assault, the increased resources for these programs through SASP funds underscore our dedication to centering the voices of survivors and enhancing services and support," said OVW director Rosie Hidalgo. "We at the Office on Violence Against Women recognize the importance of strengthening a robust community-wide response in aiding survivors of sexual violence. This collective effort ensures that survivors are not just heard, but that they are fully supported in accessing safety, healing and justice. I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to service providers, advocates, coalitions and especially survivors. Their relentless work, bravery and dedication in preventing and addressing sexual violence are not just commendable but essential."

Congress first authorized SASP in the VAWA Reauthorization of 2005. SASP is the nation's first federal funding stream dedicated to providing direct intervention and related assistance to victims of sexual assault. OVW administers SASP funding according to a statutorily determined, population-based formula. States and territories, in turn, sub award the funds to rape crisis centers and other nonprofit, nongovernmental or Tribal agencies that provide direct intervention and related services to adult, youth and child victims of sexual assault.

In addition to SASP, OVW administers discretionary grant programs, many of which fund sexual assault services.

OVW provides leadership in developing the nation's capacity to reduce violence through the implementation of VAWA and subsequent legislation. Created in 1995, OVW administers financial and technical assistance to communities across the country that are developing programs, policies and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. In addition to overseeing federal grant programs, OVW undertakes initiatives in response to special needs identified by communities facing acute challenges. Learn more at www.justice.gov/ovw. ***(PR)***

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3) Shell San Roque
4) Shell Susupe
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
 # 05-2023(b)

Opening date: August 14, 2023 **Closing date: September 01, 2023**

Location: SAIPAN		**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Airport Manager	UNGRADED
	(1) ARFF Mechanic II	PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr to $15.85/hr)
	(1) AOA Controller I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr)
	(1) Master Electrician	PL 19/1 to 19/12 ($17.48/hr to $29.90/hr)
Location: TINIAN		**SALARY**
Position(s):	(2) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr)
Location: ROTA		**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Rota Ports Manager	UNGRADED
	(2) Custodial/Maintenance-I	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr. to $13.04/hr.)
	(1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance I	PL 5/1 to 5/12($8.83/hr. to $15.10/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or ***CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, September 01, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

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CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of August 25, 2023

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Triple J Saipan, Inc.	6/15/2023 TMS-2022-035-A1	Construction of Two Barracks Unit & One Recreational Building	San Jose, Tinian	Major Siting	Approved 8/10/2023
2. U.S.A. Fanter Corporation, Ltd.	07/21/2023 SPI-2023-079	Staging & Stockpiling	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	STOP CLOCK* 07/28/2023
3. CNMI United Investment Corporation, Ltd.	08/04/2023 SMS-2023-085	Retaining Wall and Shoreline Revetment Project	Garapan, Saipan	Major Siting	Certified Complete* 08/22/2023 Public Hearing* 09/12/2023
4. Tinian Harui Real Estate Co., LLC.	8/8/2023 TMS-2023-086	Xingsha Hotel	San Jose, Tinian	Major Siting	Approved* 8/21/2023
5. Marianas Concerts & Festivals, LLC. dba EIF Saipan	8/11/2023 SSCHm-2023-087	Electric Island Festival (EIF) Saipan	Susupe, Saipan	Shoreline & Coastal Hazards V/VE	Certified Complete* 8/14/2023 Approved* 8/14/2023
6. Marianas Surf Skate League, Inc. (MSSL)	8/15/2023 SSLRm-2023-088	Boogie Down Surf Competition 2023	Obyan, Saipan	Shoreline, Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 8/16/2023 Approved* 8/21/2023
7. Katarina Saipan 1 LLC dba Shawn Dive	8/16/2023 SLR-2023-089	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operations	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 8/17/2023 Approved* 08/23/2023
8. Department of Public Works (DPW)	8/21/2023 SSm-2023-090	Flores Rosa St Road & Drainage Improvement Project	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Certified Complete* 8/23/2023
9. Tinian Marine Stevedore, Inc.	8/23/2023 TPI-2023-003	Grading of Parking Lot, Installation of 30 ft Rolling Gate	San Jose, Tinian	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
10. J & K Marine Sports, Inc. dba J & K Marine Sports	8/24/2023 SLR-2023-092	Commercial Banana Boat & Wakeboard Operations (Towed Flotation) and Snorkeling Activities	All Designated Zones Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
11. J & K Marine Sports, Inc. dba J & K Marine Sports	8/24/2023 SLR-2023-093	Commercial Water Jetcraft & Jetovator Operations	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Business

Atkins Kroll officially launches Lexus to CNMI market

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CNMI car aficionados will finally "Experience Amazing" with the soft launch of the Lexus luxury vehicle brand last Wednesday at the Atkins Kroll Saipan showroom in Oleai.

Atkins Kroll Inc. president Alex Yap said the company is proud to finally bring Japan's largest-selling brand of premium cars to the local market.

Even before the soft launch, VIP guests were told to brace themselves to finally meet "this global luxury brand with unwavering commitment to bold, uncompromising design, exceptional craftsmanship, and the exhilarating performance that only Lexus can deliver."

Yap said the soft launch is just the beginning as Atkins Kroll will add more Lexus models to its current inventory (RX 350h Luxury, Lexus NX 250 Premium, and Lexus RX 350 F-Sport) in the coming months, especially when the automobile dealership finally moves to its new digs, the $18-million Toyota Lexus Automotive Sales and Service Center and Vehicle Repair Shop, in Puerto Rico next year.

"In the car industry, we call this a soft launch because unlike a full-blown launch we bring in a lot of stuff. Here we are just introducing cars and sharing the Lexus brand. So what is Lexus? It epitomizes luxury, marvelous engineering, and pushes the boundaries of both—automotive engineering and luxury."

Yap then went on to talk about the Japanese Takumi concept and how it's ingrained in Toyota and by osmosis to its luxury car brand Lexus.

Takumi is loosely translated to artisan and it's this type of perfection engineers at Lexus put emphasis on every vehicle that rolls out of their factories.

"All Takumi masters have at least 25 years' experience in not just cars but just about everything… It's knowledge and expertise…" he said, while comparing a Takumi master to an expert in origami who can fold paper into a crane or a cat in mere seconds.

Yap then thanked everyone for gracing the Lexus event and concluded his speech by borrowing the brand's famous catch phrase.

"I'm happy to share this moment with all of you who have witnessed and experienced the launch of the Lexus branch in the CNMI and have 'Experience[d]' Amazing!"

The master of ceremonies, Atkins Kroll Sales manager Kevin Barnes, started the evening's festivities by showing a short video of how Lexus' engineers obsessively built a car renowned for its smooth driving by placing wine glasses filled with water on its hood.

This pursuit of perfection culminated in the LS 400 and the ES 250 in 1989. Nine years later in 1998, Lexus introduced the RX300 that was the brand's first entry into the luxury crossover segment.

Lexus soon became the top selling luxury car brand in the U.S. and in 2005 Lexus introduced the world's first luxury hybrid vehicle, the RX400h.

Fast-forward to 2023, Lexus then unveiled its first battery electric vehicle, the Lexus RZ450e.

Aside from feasting on the otherworldly extravagance and technological marvel of the aforementioned Lexus car models, guests also enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and drinks before the soft launch concluded with a raffle drawing of Lexus umbrellas, water bottles, caps, and $50 and $100 gas vouchers.

Barnes also introduced Atkins Kroll Saipan interim vice president and general manager Julie Lee, AK Service manager Vince Tudela, and his sales team before the event broke for cocktails.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune,* Barnes said just this year alone they've already sold nine Lexus units and judging by the inquiries after the soft launch Wednesday, more sales are on the horizon.

A couple of the guests present during the soft launch actually are recent Lexus owners and they vouched for the luxury car brand's commendable attributes.

Jong Farinas, who owns an accounting firm and a barbecue stall, said he's quite happy with his LX 350 that he bought just a couple of months back.

The 57-year-old said he and his wife use the Lexus as their daily driver after it replaced their old Toyota FJ Cruiser.

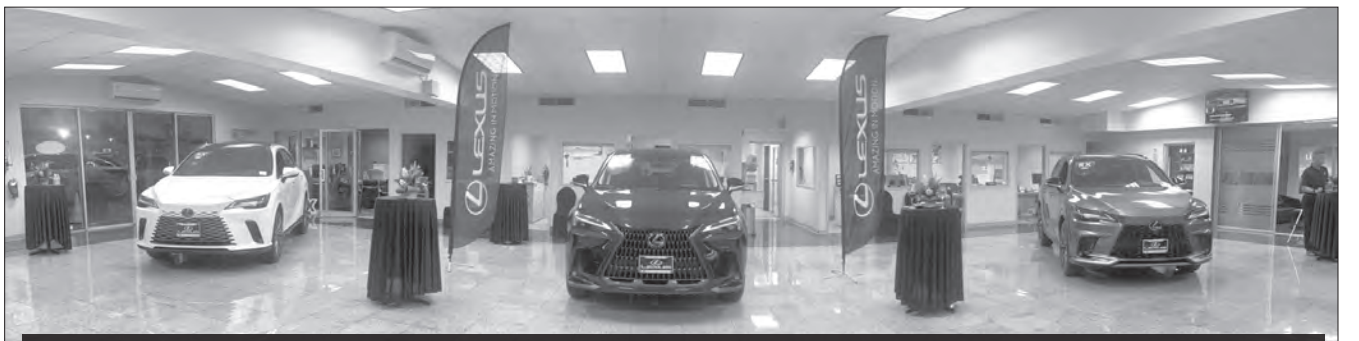
"It's very nice and luxurious and has a lot of features. It's now my favorite car until Lexus comes out with a better one," he said.

Anthony Yoshikawa, a 39-year-old staff at the Community Guidance Center, said his NX 350 F-Sport is a culmination of a promise he made to himself many years ago.

MARK RABAGO
Atkins Kroll Inc. president Alex Yap, seventh from left; Atkins Kroll Saipan interim vice president and general manager Julie Lee, third from left; Atkins Kroll Sales manager Kevin Barnes, fifth from right, and AK Service manager Vince Tudela, left, pose with the AK Saipan Sales and Service department staff.

MARK RABAGO
Atkins Kroll Inc. president Alex Yap said the soft launch is just the beginning as Atkins Kroll will add more Lexus models to its current inventory.

MARK RABAGO
Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, center, was one of the VIP guests of the Lexus soft launch by Atkins Kroll Saipan last Wednesday.



MARK RABAGO
Atkins Kroll Saipan unveiled its latest Lexus models during the soft launch of the luxury vehicle brand last Wednesday at its Oleai show room. From left, RX 350h Luxury, Lexus NX 250 Premium, and Lexus RX 350 F-Sport.

"Lexus has always been my dream car. I've always told myself that one day when I work hard and make a bit of money I will be able to get a Lexus. I asked myself if not today then when and I'm very happy with the purchase."

A couple of weeks after driving the Lexus out of the AK Saipan parking lot, Yoshikawa said he continues to marvel at his car's comfort and technology. "It's just luxurious, very reliable, and very smart."

Xi, Putin, other leaders locked in discussions over expansion of BRICS

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—The leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa held closed-door discussions Wednesday on the possible expansion of their BRICS economic bloc, a move they've framed as a way to amplify the voice of developing nations, but which also serves the geopolitical interests of Beijing and Moscow.

A decision on whether to accept new members had been expected late Wednesday, the second day of a three-day BRICS summit in Johannesburg. But officials said that was looking unlikely and a declaration might be made on Thursday.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa met at a conference center in the Sandton financial district in South Africa's biggest city.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who did not travel to the summit after being issued an International Criminal Court arrest warrant, joined via video link from Moscow. Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov was in Johannesburg to represent Russia.

South Africa's Ramaphosa said all five leaders backed the principle of expansion.

"We stand at the cusp of expanding the BRICS family, because it is through this expansion that we will be able to have a much stronger BRICS in these turbulent times that we live in," Ramaphosa said.

More than 20 countries have applied to join BRICS, which was formed by Brazil, Russia, India and China in 2009, and added South Africa in 2010.

Saudi Arabia is among the nations seeking membership, raising the possibility of the oil giant moving a little closer to China and Russia. Others who have applied include Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates, according to officials.

Even if the BRICS leaders reach a consensus on expansion, it's not clear if any new members would be announced at this week's meeting.

The five must first thrash out details of the criteria new countries must meet to join the economic bloc. BRICS is consensus-based and decisions are only made if all five agree.

"We welcome moving forward on this based on consensus," Indian leader Modi said, also giving his support to expansion.

While China and Russia have pushed for expansion, others have only given their approval more recently.

An expanded BRICS has been seen as a possible boost to China and Russia in forming a symbolic coalition amid growing China-United States friction and the collapse of Russia's relationship with the West because of its war in Ukraine.

Nation

Trump set to surrender at Georgia jail

ATLANTA (AP)—Donald Trump is set to surrender Thursday to authorities in Georgia on charges that he schemed to overturn the 2020 election in that state, a booking process expected to yield a historic first: a mug shot of a former American president.

Trump's arrival follows a presidential debate featuring his leading rivals for the 2024 Republican nomination, a contest in which he remains the leading candidate despite accelerating legal troubles. His presence in the state, though likely brief, is expected to swipe the spotlight at least temporarily from his opponents in the aftermath of a debate in which other candidates sought to seize on Trump's absence to elevate their own presidential prospects.

The Fulton County prosecution is the fourth criminal case against Trump since March, when he became the first former president in U.S. history to be indicted. Since then, he's faced federal charges in Florida and Washington and, this month, was indicted in Atlanta with 18 others — including his ex-chief of staff, Mark Meadows, and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani — under a racketeering statute normally associated with gang members and organized crime.

The criminal cases have spurred a succession of bookings and arraignments, with Trump making brief court appearances before returning to the campaign trail. He's turned the appearances into campaign events amid a far lighter schedule than his rivals, with staff delighting in wall-the-wall media coverage that has included news helicopters tracking his every move.

The campaign has also used the appearances to solicit fundraising contributions from his supporters as aides paint the charges as part of a politically motivated effort to damage his reelection chances.

His Atlanta appearance will be different than others, though, requiring him to surrender at a problem-plagued jail — but without an accompanying court appearance for now. Unlike in other cities that did not require him to pose for a mug shot, Fulton County officials have said they expect to take a booking photo like they would for any other defendant.

"Unless somebody tells me differently, we are following our normal practices, and so it doesn't matter your status, we'll have a mugshot ready for you," Fulton County Sheriff Patrick Labat said at a news conference earlier this month.

District Attorney Fani Willis has given all of the defendants until Friday afternoon to surrender at the main Fulton County jail.

Trump has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing. He said in a social media post this week that he was being prosecuted for what he described in capital letters as a "perfect phone call" in which he asked the Republican secretary of state, Brad Raffensperger, to help him "find" enough votes for him to overturn his loss in the state to Democrat Joe Biden.

Trump is expected to turn himself in at the Fulton County jail, which has long been a troubled facility. The Justice Department last month opened a civil rights investigation into conditions, citing filthy cells, violence and the death last year of a man whose body was found covered in insects in the main jail's psychiatric wing. Three people have died in Fulton County custody in the past month.

But he is not expected to spend much time there.

His attorneys and prosecutors have already agreed to a bond of $200,000, along with conditions that include barring the former president from intimidating co-defendants, witnesses or victims in the case — including on social media.

When defendants arrive at the jail, they typically pass through a security checkpoint before checking in for formal booking in the lobby. During the booking process, defendants are typically photographed and fingerprinted and asked to provide certain personal information. Since Trump's bond has already been set, he will be released from custody once the booking process is complete.

Trial to begin in lawsuit over policy letting migrants from 4 countries into US amid raid

HOUSTON (AP)—A key portion of President Joe Biden's immigration policy that grants parole to thousands of people from Central America and the Caribbean was set to be debated in a Texas federal courtroom beginning Thursday.

Under the humanitarian parole program, up to 30,000 people are being allowed each month to enter the U.S. from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

Texas is leading a lawsuit filed by 21 Republican-leaning states to stop the program, arguing the Biden administration has overreached its authority. Other programs the administration has implemented to reduce illegal immigration have also faced legal challenges.

The parole program was started for Venezuelans in fall 2022 and then expanded in January. People taking part must apply online, arrive at an airport and have a financial sponsor in the U.S. If approved, they can stay for two years and get a work permit.

The program has "been tremendously successful at reducing migration to the southwest border," attorneys for the U.S. Justice Department, which is representing the federal government in the lawsuit, wrote in court documents.

A trial on the states' lawsuit is being presided over by U.S. District Judge Drew Tipton in Victoria, Texas. Tipton, a Donald Trump appointee, has previously ruled against the Biden administration on who to prioritize for deportation.

The trial was scheduled to be livestreamed from Victoria to a federal courtroom in Houston, and last two days. Tipton was expected to issue a ruling at a later date.

In court documents, Texas and the other states have called the Biden administration's program an "extreme example" of not enforcing immigration laws that require it to "grant parole only on a case-by-case basis for significant public benefit or urgent humanitarian reasons."

While the Republican states' lawsuit is objecting to the use of humanitarian parole for migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela, it hasn't raised any concerns for its use to grant entry to tens of thousands of Ukrainians when Russia invaded.

Texas has also argued the parole program causes financial harm because it has to provide services, including detention, educational, social services, and driver's license programs, to the paroled migrants.

Immigrant rights groups joined the legal proceedings on behalf of seven people who are sponsoring migrants. One of the sponsors was expected to testify during the trial.

The immigrant rights groups have defended the humanitarian parole program, saying it's a safe pathway to the U.S. for desperate migrants who would otherwise be paying human smugglers and bogging down border agents. The program is also helping reduce the humanitarian crisis along the U.S.-Mexico border, the groups said.

As of the end of July, more than 72,000 Haitians, 63,000 Venezuelans, 41,000 Cubans and 34,000 Nicaraguans had been vetted and authorized to come to the U.S. through the parole program.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2023

Opening date: August 09, 2023 **Closing date: September 11, 2023**

Location: SAIPAN **SALARY: UNCLASSIFIED**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NATURE OF WORK

The Executive Director is the CPA chief executive officer, serving at the pleasure of the CPA Board of Directors and responsible for implementing the policies and decisions of the CPA Board of Directors. Statutory powers and duties of the Executive Director are listed in the Commonwealth Code at 2 CMC §2127.

Under the general direction of the CPA Board of Directors, the Executive Director is responsible for the planning, supervision, and coordination of the management, operation, and maintenance of all CNMI airports and seaports, as stated in the CPA statue and regulations. The Executive Director is in charge and control of the operation and maintenance of all CPA ports. The Executive Director is also in full charge and control of construction of all CPA ports, facilities, and other necessary or incidental works controlled by or required to be constructed or repaired by CPA. The Executive Director exercises independent judgment in finding solutions to situations or problems in which no clear precedents exist.

The Executive Director is to devote full time to the business of CPA. The Executive Director shall be on call at all times after normal working hours and on weekends and holidays. The Executive Director shall also make recommendations to the CPA Board of Directors on matters impacting airport and seaport management, maintenance, and operation, represent CPA at meetings and conferences and before community groups, service organizations, civic committees, and technical industry organizations with respect to airport and seaport matters, and perform related duties as required.

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Monday, September 11, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

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CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Asia

AS TENSION FROM CHINA INTENSIFIES

US approves new $500M arms sale to Taiwan

AP

A Taiwanese soldier holds a Taiwan national flag near a group of soldiers with red markings on their helmets to play the role of an enemy during the annual Han Kuang military exercises simulating an attack on an airfield at Taoyuan International Airport in Taoyuan, Northern Taiwan, July 26, 2023.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration has approved a $500 million arms sale to Taiwan as it ramps up military assistance to the island despite fervent objections from China.

The State Department said Wednesday it had signed off on the sale of infrared search tracking systems along with related equipment for advanced F-16 fighter jets. The sale includes the infrared systems as well as test support and equipment, computer software and spare parts, it said.

Although the deal is modest in comparison to previous weapons sales, the move is likely to draw fierce criticism from Beijing, which regards self-governing Taiwan as a renegade province and refuses to rule out the use of force to reunify it with the mainland.

"This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability," the State Department said in a statement.

"The proposed sale will improve the recipient's capability to meet current and future threats by contributing to the recipient's abilities to defend its airspace, provide regional security, and increase interoperability with the United States through its F-16 program," it said.

The announcement came just hours after Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen renewed a pledge to strengthen Taiwan's self-defense as she visited a war memorial from the last time Taiwan and China battled. Tsai, visited the outlying islands of Kinmen where the conflict was fought 65 years ago, commemorated those who died.

Wednesday's State Department announcement also follows an angry Chinese reaction to the transit through the United States of Taiwanese Vice President William Lai on his way to and from an official visit in Paraguay last week.

In recent years, China has stepped up its military activity in the waters and skies around Taiwan, sending fighter jets and navy vessels near the island or to encircle it.

PH supply boats breach Chinese coast guard blockade

ABOARD BRP CABRA (AP)—As a United States Navy plane circled overhead, two Philippine boats breached a Chinese coast guard blockade in a dangerous confrontation Tuesday in the disputed South China Sea to deliver food and other supplies to Filipino forces guarding a contested shoal.

Two Philippine coast guard vessels escorting the supply boats, however, were blocked by at least four Chinese coast guard ships for about five hours in the tense standoff near Second Thomas Shoal.

The dangerous encounter is the latest flare-up from the long-seething territorial disputes in the busy sea that involve China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei. It's regarded as an Asian flashpoint and has become a delicate fault line in the U.S.-China rivalry.

The Philippine coast guard invited a small group of journalists, including two from The Associated Press, to join its ships that secured the supply boats as part of a new strategy aimed at exposing China's increasingly aggressive actions in the South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety.

One Chinese coast guard ship came as close as 46 meters (50 yards) as it crossed the bow of BRP Cabra to block the Philippine coast guard ship, which maneuvered fast to avoid a collision, said a coast guard officer onboard the Cabra who could not be named because of official policy.

The Cabra and another coast guard ship, the BRP Sindangan, were surrounded by four Chinese coast guard ships and four suspected militia vessels and forced to stop as the other two Philippine boats delivered supplies to the Filipino forces at Second Thomas Shoal, more than 7 kilometers (4 miles) away.

All the Philippine vessels sailed away without further incident after the supplies and a fresh crew of Filipino sailors were delivered to the military outpost on a long-marooned Philippine navy ship at the shoal.

"We're happy that the resupply mission succeeded despite all the dangerous blockings and other actions," Cmdr. Emmanuel Dangate of the Cabra told AP.

Coast Guard spokesperson Commodore Jay Tarriela condemned the Chinese coast guard blockade and other perilous maneuvers as a violation of international regulations aimed at avoiding sea collisions. The coast guard would provide a report to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila for a possible diplomatic protest against China, he said.

The hostilities started Monday night, when a Chinese coast guard ship started tailing the Philippine vessels. On Tuesday morning, both sides asserted their territorial rights in a flurry of radio message exchanges with a man identifying himself as coming from the one of the Chinese coast guard ships, warning at one point: "To avoid miscalculation, leave and keep out, otherwise, you will bear full responsibility for all the consequences."

When the Philippine ships did not back away, the Chinese radio caller warned that, because of such continued "infringement and provocation, we will take countermeasures."

Chinese coast guard ships repeatedly crossed the bows of the two Philippine coast guard ships at close range. Up to three later positioned in front of the Cabra, which remained stationary. The Chinese ships also moved dangerously close to the wooden-hulled supply boats, but the two smaller vessels managed to dart cross the shallows toward the shoal.

Chinese officials at the embassy in Manila did not immediately comment on the encounter. It was not immediately clear why the U.S. Navy deployed the surveillance plane that flew for more than three hours overhead as the Chinese ships blocked and shadowed the Philippine vessels off Second Thomas Shoal. When asked about the deployment of the Navy plane, U.S. Embassy spokesperson Kanishka Gangopadhyay in Manila said he could not provide specifics. "What I can say is that all of our military activities in the Philippines are conducted in full coordination with our Philippine allies," he said.

N. Korea 2nd attempt to launch spy satellite fails, vows 3rd try

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Thursday that its second attempt to launch a spy satellite failed again but vowed to make another attempt in October, demonstrating willingness to endure flops to acquire a key military asset coveted by leader Kim Jong Un.

The failed launch prompted neighboring Japan to issue brief a "J-alert" ordering some residents to evacuate to safe places as the North Korean rocket flew over its southernmost islands of Okinawa to the Pacific Ocean.

The North's space agency said it used the new-type carrier rocket Chollima-1 to put the reconnaissance satellite Malligyong-1 into orbit. It said the flights of the rocket's first and second stages were normal, but the launch eventually failed due to an error in the emergency blasting system during the third-stage flight, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

The National Aerospace Development Administration said it would make a third launch attempt in October after studying what went wrong with Thursday's launch. The agency added that "the cause of the relevant accident is not a big issue in terms of the reliability of cascade engines and the system."

"Kim may have licked his wounds after this second failure, but he's already dusting himself off and moving on," said Soo Kim, an expert with Virginia-based consultancy LMI and a former CIA analyst. "In previous cases where the North has failed a weapons demonstration, we never saw them give up but show greater perseverance in view of their longer-term ambitions."

Earlier Thursday, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that it detected the rocket flying above international waters off the Korean Peninsula's west coast after its liftoff at the North's northwestern Tongchang-ri area at 3:50 a.m. The site is where North Korea's main space launch center is located. The North made a failed launch of a spy satellite there in late May.

South Korea's military said the launch of the rocket violated U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban any launches by North Korea using ballistic technologies. Japan's chief Cabinet secretary, Hirokazu Matsuno, called the North Korean launch a "threat to peace and stability."

Adrienne Watson, a spokesperson for the White House's National Security Council, said the United States strongly condemns the launch, adding that it involved technologies directly related to the North's intercontinental ballistic missile program. Watson said Pyongyang must immediately cease its provocative actions and instead choose engagement.

In a phone call, senior diplomats from the U.S., Japan and South Korea condemned the North Korean launch, saying the North's repeated provocations will only result in strengthening a Washington-Tokyo-Seoul cooperation, according to Seoul and Tokyo officials.

In its first launch attempt, a North Korean rocket carrying a spy satellite plunged into the sea soon after liftoff. Like it did on Thursday, North Korea quickly acknowledged the failure of the earlier launch as well, saying the crash happened because the Chollima-1 rocket lost thrust between launch stages.

World

Prigozhin is presumed dead in plane crash outside Moscow

TALLINN, Estonia (AP)—Mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin, who led a brief armed rebellion against the Russian military earlier this year, was presumed dead Wednesday after a plane crash north of Moscow that killed all 10 people on board.

Prigozhin was on the plane, according to Russia's civil aviation agency, which cited the airline. The crash immediately raised suspicions since the fate of the founder of the Wagner private military company has been the subject of intense speculation ever since he mounted the mutiny.

At the time, President Vladimir Putin denounced the rebellion as "treason" and a "stab in the back" and vowed to avenge it. But the charges against Prigozhin were soon dropped. The Wagner chief, whose troops were some of the best fighting forces for Russia in Ukraine, was allowed to retreat to Belarus, while reportedly popping up in Russia from time to time.

The crash also comes after Russian media reported that a top general linked to Prigozhin was dismissed from his position as commander of the air force.

A plane carrying three crew members and seven passengers that was en route from Moscow to St. Petersburg went down almost 300 kilometers (185 miles) north of the capital, according to officials cited by Russia's state news agency Tass.

Russia's civilian aviation agency, Rosaviatsia, quickly reported that he was on the manifest and later said that, according to the airline, he was indeed on board.

Earlier, Vladimir Rogov, a Russia-appointed official in the partially occupied Zaporizhzhia region in Ukraine, said he talked to Wagner commanders who also confirmed that Prigozhin was aboard, as was Dmitry Utkin, whose call sign Wagner became the company's name.

"I don't know for a fact what happened but I'm not surprised," U.S. President Joe Biden said.

Keir Giles, a Russia expert with the international affairs think tank Chatham House, had urged caution about reports of Prigozhin's death. He said "multiple individuals have changed their name to Yevgeniy Prigozhin, as part of his efforts to obfuscate his travels."

Flight tracking data reviewed by The Associated Press showed a private jet

AP

This image taken from video released by Ostorozhno Novosti on Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023, shows the crash site of a private jet near the village of Kuzhenkino, Tver Region.

burning wreckage, a partial tail number matching a jet previously used by Prigozhin could be seen.

Videos shared by the pro-Wagner Telegram channel Grey Zone showed a plane dropping like a stone from a large cloud of smoke, twisting wildly as it fell. Such freefalls can occur when an aircraft sustains severe damage, and a frame-by-frame AP analysis of two videos was consistent with some sort of explosion mid-flight. The images appeared to show the plane was missing a wing.

Russia's Investigative Committee opened an investigation into the crash on charges of violating air safety rules, as is typical when they open such probes. Interfax, citing emergency officials, reported early Thursday that all 10 bodies had been recovered at the site of the crash and the search operation had ended.

Even if confirmed, Prigozhin's death is unlikely to have an effect on Russia's war in Ukraine, where his forces fought some of the fiercest battles over the past 18 months.

His troops pulled back from front-line action after capturing Bakhmut, a city in the eastern Donetsk region, in late May. Bakhmut had been the subject of arguably the bloodiest battles in the entire war, with the Russian forces struggling to seize it for months.

After the rebellion, Russian officials said his fighters would only be able to return to Ukraine as part of the regular army.

This week, Prigozhin posted his first recruitment video since the mutiny, saying that Wagner is conducting reconnaissance and search activities, and "making Russia even greater on all continents, and Africa even more free. "

Also this week, Russian media reported, citing anonymous sources, that Gen. Sergei Surovikin was dismissed from his position of the commander of Russia's air force. Surovikin, who at one point led Russia's operation in Ukraine, hasn't been seen in public since the mutiny, when he recorded a video address urging Prigozhin's forces to pull back.

As news of the crash was breaking, Putin spoke at an event commemorating the Battle of Kursk, hailing the heroes of Russia's war in Ukraine.

Tatiana Stanovaya, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center, said on Telegram that "no matter what caused the plane crash, everyone will see it as an act of vengeance and retribution" by the Kremlin, and "the Kremlin wouldn't really stand in the way of that."

WORLD BRIEFS

At least 1 person dead, 2 missing as Franklin batters Dominican Republic

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)—Tropical Storm Franklin unleashed heavy floods and landslides in the Dominican Republic on Wednesday after making landfall in the country's southern region, killing at least one person and leaving two others missing. The storm began to slowly spin away late Wednesday afternoon from the island of Hispaniola that the Dominican Republic shares with Haiti after dumping heavy rain for several hours. Forecasters warned the storm could drop up to 12 inches (30 centimeters) of rain in the Dominican Republic, with a maximum of 16 inches (41 centimeters) for the country's western and central regions. Meanwhile, up to 4 inches (10 centimeters) of rain are forecast for Haiti, with nearly 8 inches (20 centimeters) for the country's eastern regions. "The population of the Dominican Republic must all be right now, without exception, in their homes, the homes of friends and family, or in shelters," said Juan Manuel Méndez, emergency operations director.

Allies say Guatemala election winner is highly qualified peacebuilder

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—Bernardo Arévalo's experience in peacebuilding and diplomacy eminently qualify him to lead Guatemala as the conflict-riven country's next president, those who know him say. But first he will have to overcome forces that could keep him from taking power. Guatemalans voted for Arévalo in a landslide Sunday, but his opponent, former first lady Sandra Torres, has not conceded, or said anything for that matter. The election results have not been certified, a legal step necessary for Arévalo to become president. That's not the only hitch: The attorney general's office also continues to investigate the registration of his Seed Movement party and has already asked a judge once to suspend it. And even if Arévalo takes the presidency, Guatemala's powers that be could hamstring him as leader when he takes power in five months. Arévalo and those who know him say that he wants to unite his country. It's his platform of eradicating corruption that has earned enemies among the political and economic elite.

African Union suspends Niger until 'the effective restoration of constitutional order'

NIAMEY, Niger (AP)—The African Union on Tuesday suspended Niger from all of its institutions and activities "until the effective restoration of constitutional order" following last month's coup. The Executive Council of the 55-nation bloc made the decision after mutinous soldiers overthrew Niger's democratically elected president almost four weeks ago and quickly entrenched themselves in power, rebuffing most dialogue efforts. President Mohamed Bazoum, his wife and son have been kept under house arrest in the capital, Niamey. The suspension announcement was the council's first public communication since it met earlier this month to discuss Niger's crisis. The body made up of foreign ministers called on the African Union's other member nations and the international community to reject the "unconstitutional change of government and to refrain from any action likely to grant legitimacy to the illegal regime in Niger."

Russia and Ukraine trade drone attacks

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russia and Ukraine traded drone attacks early Wednesday, officials said, with Kyiv apparently targeting Moscow again and the Kremlin's forces launching another bombardment of Ukrainian grain storage depots in what have recently become signature tactics in the almost 18-month war.

Later Wednesday, the Ukrainian intelligence agency claimed it had destroyed a key Russian S-400 surface-to-air missile defense system in occupied Crimea. If confirmed, it would be another embarrassing blow for Moscow, as Ukraine increasingly targets Russia's assets far behind the front line in southern and eastern Ukraine.

The agency, known by its acronym GUR, claimed on its official Telegram channel that Russia has a "limited number" of the sophisticated systems and that the loss "is a painful blow." Moscow officials made no immediate comment.

The long-range S-400 missiles are capable of striking enemy aircraft and are regarded as one of the best such systems available. They have a range of 400 kilometers (250 miles) and can simultaneously engage multiple targets.

Earlier, a three-hour nighttime Russian drone attack in Ukraine's southern Odesa region overnight Tuesday caused a blaze at grain facilities, Odesa Regional Military Administration Head Oleh Kiper said.

The attack destroyed 13,000 metric tons (14,300 U.S. tons) of grain, bringing the month's total grain losses to around 270,000 metric tons (300,000 U.S. tons), Ukrainian Infrastructure Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov said in a Facebook post.

Russia zeroed in on Odesa last month, crippling significant parts of the port city's grain facilities, days after President Vladimir Putin broke off Russia's participation in the Black Sea Grain Initiative. That wartime deal enabled Ukraine's exports to reach many countries facing the threat of hunger.

Under a year of that deal, Ukraine shipped 32.9 million metric tons (36.2 million U.S. tons) of grain, most of it from the Odesa region.

Russian officials, meanwhile, claimed to have downed Ukrainian drones in Moscow and the surrounding region early Wednesday, the defense ministry and the mayor said. No casualties were reported in the drone attack, which has become almost a daily occurrence in the Russian capital.

Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyanin said one drone smashed into a building under construction in Moscow City, a prestigious business complex hit by drones twice before. Several windows were broken in two buildings nearby and emergency services responded to the scene.

Off The Wall

‘T. rexes’ race to photo finish

AP

Racers, including eventual winner Ocean Kim (5), leave the gates for the championship race during the “T-Rex World Championship Races” at Emerald Downs, Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023, in Auburn, Wash

AUBURN, Wash. (AP)—A track for live horse racing in suburban Seattle turned prehistoric over the weekend as more than 200 people ran down the track cloaked in inflatable Tyrannosaurus rex dinosaur costumes.

The 2023 T-Rex World Championships at Emerald Downs—an event that started in 2017 as a pest control company’s team-building activity—ended in a photo finish on Sunday, with three competitors hitting the finish line together.

Ocean Kim took top honors in the 100-yard (91.2-meter) dash after officials agreed Kim, of Kailua, Hawaii, hit the finish wire just ahead of the pack. Second place went to Colton Winegar of Boise, Idaho, who entered as Deno the Dino. Seth Hirschi, of Renton, as Rex Ray Machine, finished in third.

The actual T. rex roamed the planet between 65 million and 67 million years ago. A study published two years ago in the journal Science estimated that about 2.5 billion of the dinosaurs ever lived. Hollywood movies such as the “Jurassic Park” franchise have added to the public fascination with the carnivorous creature.

Cat found in stolen car belongs to suspect

MERIDEN, Conn. (AP)—Police who found a kitten in a stolen car say they have located the animal’s owner: A juvenile suspect who fled and was arrested after the car crashed.

The Meriden Police Department said on its Facebook page Thursday that the gray-and-white male cat has been returned to the suspect’s mother.

The department said the youth said nothing to officers about the pet, which was found under a seat. Instead, police were led to the owner by someone who responded to the department’s Facebook post earlier this week looking for the animal’s owner.

In the meantime, a number of people contacted authorities looking to adopt the cat, police said.

AP

This image provided by the Meriden, Conn., Police Department shows a kitten that was found in a stolen car that police were examining for evidence, and now they are looking for his owner. Police who found a kitten in a stolen car say they have located the animal’s owner.

Police said they found the feline while searching for evidence after the stolen vehicle collided with a patrol car during an Aug. 10 chase. Officers were pursuing the vehicle on suspicion that it had been used in armed robberies in several nearby communities hours earlier. After the crash, six suspects fled but were soon arrested.

A large ice chunk fell from the sky, damages house in Massachusetts

SHIRLEY, Mass. (AP)—A large ice chunk fell from the sky and hit a house in Massachusetts, damaging the roof of the home, the homeowner said.

Jeff Ilg said he and his wife, Amelia Rainville, suspect the ice fell off an airplane traveling to Boston Logan International Airport. Neither the couple nor their two children were hurt when the ice chunk, which Ilg said was initially estimated to be 15 to 20 pounds (six to nine kilograms), hit the roof on Sunday night.

“We heard an explosion, basically,” he said on Thursday. “The loudest pop, bang I’ve ever heard.” Then they heard debris rolling down the roof onto a lower roof, he said. Initially it was thought the house was struck by lightning.

The Federal Aviation Administration said it’s investigating.

The couple ran upstairs to check on their children, who were sound asleep despite the noise. They then ran around the house to see what happened and then outside where Ilg said he saw a giant partial block of ice on the back step, and debris scattered around the backyard and on the roof.

“I had no idea what this was,” he said. He grabbed a flashlight and started looking for damage but couldn’t see any at first. His wife called police and then he spotted hole in the roof. He ran up to the attic to see if there was a hole.

Science & Technology

Here's what you need to know about the Fukushima wastewater discharge

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese officials plan to start discharging treated radioactive wastewater from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean on Thursday, a contentious step more than 12 years after a massive earthquake and tsunami set off a battle against ever-increasing amounts of radioactive water at the plant.

The government and plant operator say the release is an unavoidable part of its decommissioning and will be safely carried out, but the plan faces opposition in and outside Japan. Here is a look at the controversy.

WHY IS THERE SO MUCH WASTEWATER?

The March 2011 earthquake and tsunami destroyed the plant's cooling systems, causing three reactors to melt. Highly contaminated cooling water applied to the damaged reactors has leaked continuously to building basements and mixed with groundwater.

The plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings (TEPCO), has taken steps to limit the amount of groundwater and rainwater entering the reactor area, and has reduced the increase in contaminated water to about 100 tons a day, 1/5 of the initial amount. The water is collected and partly recycled as cooling water after treatment, with the rest stored in around 1,000 tanks, which are already filled to 98% of their 1.37 million-ton capacity.

WHY IS TEPCO RELEASING THE WATER NOW?

The government and TEPCO say they need to make room for the plant's decommissioning and prevent accidental leaks from the tanks.

Japan has obtained support from the International Atomic Energy Agency to improve the transparency and credibility of the release and ensure it meets international safety standards. The government has also stepped up a campaign promoting the plan's safety at home and through diplomatic channels.

WHAT'S IN THE TREATED WATER'?

The water is being treated by what's called an Advanced Liquid Processing System, which can reduce the amounts of more than 60 selected radionuclides to government-set releasable levels, except for tritium, which officials say is safe for humans if consumed in small amounts.

About 70% of the water held in the tanks still contains cesium, strontium, carbon-14 and other radionuclides exceeding government-set levels. It will be retreated until the concentrations meet those limits, then diluted by more than 100 times its volume of seawater before it is released. That will bring it way below international safety limits, but its radioactivity won't be zero.

HOW SAFE IS IT?

IAEA concluded in a report that the plan, if conducted as designed, will have negligible impact on the environment and human health. IAEA chief Rafael Grossi visited the plant and said he was satisfied with preparations.

Japan's government says the release of tritium into the sea is a routine practice by nuclear plants around the world and that the amount will be several times lower than from plants in China and South Korea.

Scientists generally support the IAEA's conclusion, while some call for more attention to dozens of low-dose radionuclides that remain in the water, saying data on their long-term effects on the environment and marine life are insufficient.

Experts say the release of treated water from Fukushima is much less challenging than the daunting task of removing deadly radioactive debris that remains in the damaged reactors.

HOW WILL IT BE RELEASED?

TEPCO executive Junichi Matsumoto says the release will begin with the least radioactive water to ensure safety. After samples are analyzed in final testing, the water will be transported through a thin black pipe to a coastal area where it will be diluted with hundreds of times its volume of seawater.

The diluted water will enter an undersea tunnel and be released a few minutes later from a point 1 kilometer (0.6 mile) off the coast. The release will be gradual and will continue for decades until the decommissioning of the plant is finished, TEPCO officials say. Matsumoto said the slow release will further reduce the environmental impact.

Final preparation for the release began Tuesday when just 1 ton of water was sent for dilution with 1,200 tons of seawater, and the mixture was to be kept in the primary pool for two days for final sampling to ensure safety, Matsumoto said. A batch of 460 tons will be sent to the mixing pool Thursday for the actual discharge.

The company plans to release 31,200 tons of treated water by the end of March 2024, which would empty only 10 tanks because of the continued production of wastewater at the plant. The pace will later pick up.

WHY ARE PEOPLE WORRIED?

Fukushima's badly hit fisheries, tourism and economy are still recovering from the disaster. Fisheries groups worry about a further damage to the reputation of their seafood. Fukushima's current catch is only about one-fifth its pre-disaster level due to a decline in the fishing population and smaller catch sizes.

The head of the National Federation of Fisheries Co-operatives, Masanobu Sakamoto, said on Monday that "scientific safety and the sense of safety are different."

Groups in South Korea and China have also raised concerns, turning the release into a political and diplomatic issue. China has stepped up radiation testing of fishery and agricultural products from Fukushima and nine other prefectures, halting exports at customs for weeks, Fisheries Agency officials say.

WHAT IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG?

The Japanese government says potential risks from the release of treated water are limited to reputational damage resulting from rumors, rather than scientific study. It has allocated 80 billion yen ($550 million) to support fisheries and seafood processing and combat potential reputation damage. TEPCO has also promised to deal with reputational damage claims.

Life & Style

Australian prosecutors drop case vs. Amber Heard over pets

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australian prosecutors dropped a potential criminal case against American actor Amber Heard over allegations that she lied to a court about how her Yorkshire terriers Pistol and Boo came to be smuggled into Australia eight years ago, the government said Wednesday.

Heard and her then-husband Johnny Depp became embroiled in a high-profile biosecurity controversy in 2015 when she brought her pets to Australia's Gold Coast, where Depp was filming the fifth movie in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" series.

Australia's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, a biosecurity watchdog, said the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions decided against prosecuting 37-year-old Heard for allegedly feigning ignorance about the nation's strict quarantine regulations.

"Prosecution action will not be taken against … Heard over allegations related to her sentencing for the illegal import of two dogs," the department said in a statement.

The department had investigated discrepancies between what her lawyer told an Australian court in 2016—when she admitted smuggling the dogs—and testimony given in a London court in 2020 when Depp, now 60, was suing The Sun newspaper for libel over allegations of domestic violence against his former wife.

Heard had pleaded guilty in 2016 at the Southport Magistrates Court in Australia to providing a false immigration document when the couple brought their dogs into Australia in a chartered jet a year earlier.

Prosecutors dropped more serious charges that Heard illegally imported the dogs—a potential 10-year prison sentence.

GLENN HUNT/AAP IMAGE VIA AP

Johnny Depp and his then wife Amber Heard leave The Southport Court in Southport, Queensland, Australia, on April 18, 2016 after Heard pleaded guilty to providing a false document after failing to tell customs she was entering the country with the pair's Yorkshire terriers.

The false documentation charge carried a maximum penalty of a year in jail and a fine of more than 10,000 Australian dollars ($7,650). Magistrate Bernadette Callaghan sentenced Heard instead to a one-month good behavior bond, under which she would only have to pay a fine of AU$1,000 if she committed any offense in Australia over the next month.

Heard's lawyer, Jeremy Kirk, told the court that his client never meant to lie on her incoming passenger card by failing to declare she had animals with her. In truth, Kirk said, she was simply jetlagged and assumed her assistants had sorted out the paperwork.

But a former Depp employee, Kevin Murphy, told London's High Court in 2020 that Heard had been repeatedly warned she was not permitted to bring dogs to Australia. But she insisted, and later pressured a staff member to take the blame for breaking quarantine laws.

Judge clears way for civil case to proceed against Alec Baldwin and 'Rust' producers

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—A New Mexico judge on Wednesday rejected a request by Alec Baldwin 's attorneys to dismiss a civil lawsuit by three "Rust" crew members who allege cost-cutting endangered the cast and crew as the actor-producer skipped his own safety training.

Baldwin

Chief District Judge Bryan Biedscheid also declined to delay proceedings despite arguments by Baldwin's legal team that doing to so would put their client at risk of self-incrimination since prosecutors have yet to decide whether to refile criminal charges against him over the fatal on-set shooting of a cinematographer.

Attorney Robert Schwartz told the judge there would be nothing to prevent prosecutors from using evidence gleaned from discovery in the civil case against Baldwin in the criminal case, if charges are refiled. As an example, he pointed to any interpretation of Baldwin's production contract and what authority he had over decision making.

Schwartz said the court is putting Baldwin in an "unfortunate position."

"No protective order can protect him against that. It just can't happen," Schwartz said. "So what's going to happen is Mr. Baldwin is going to assert his 5th Amendment rights and the plaintiffs are not going to get any discovery in the meantime."

The judge disagreed, saying he would be mindful of Baldwin's rights.

Prosecutors have been mum about when a decision will be announced, but in asking for the civil case to be delayed, Schwartz indicated Wednesday that it could some within the next few weeks.

Baldwin, a coproducer of the film, was pointing a gun at cinematographer Halyna Hutchins during a rehearsal on the film's set outside Santa Fe when the gun went off, killing her and wounding director Joel Souza.

5 high school students named National Student Poets

NEW YORK (AP)—Five high school students from Florida to Utah have been selected as this year's National Student Poets, a program founded more than a decade ago. Each winner represents a different region in the country, and brings their own distinctive background and perspective.

The student poets, each of whom receive $5,000, will help oversee workshops, readings and other activities. Previous poets have appeared at the White House and Lincoln Center among other venues.

Kallan McKinney is a queer and trans poet from Norman, Oklahoma, who uses writing to explore identity and communication. Gabriella Miranda, a rising high school senior in Salt Lake City, credits her passion for words to her visits to the library and the bedtime stories her family read to her. The high school student representing the Midwest, Shangri-La Hou of St. Louis, has a strong affinity for the natural world.

Brooklyn resident Miles Hardingwood has read poetry throughout New York City and hopes his work will help create social change. Jacqueline Flores, currently attending Fort Meade Middle Senior High School in Zolfo Springs, Florida, believes poetry can help make more visible the lives of her fellow Mexican Americans.

The National Student Poets Program is a partnership of the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the nonprofit Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, presenter of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, from which the winning poets were selected.

Man's lack of concern for health worries his spouse

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are in our 30s. I love him, and I'm worried because he has a "laissez-faire" attitude about everything—especially his health. He has had high cholesterol for five years and has done little to nothing about it. He found out only because I kept hounding him for a year to get a physical.

To say I'm "concerned" is an understatement. When I asked him how he can be so complacent about something so dangerous, I got this blank stare and "I don't know what you want me to say." Or he says I'm being rude. I can't understand why this doesn't scare him. Should I try to force him to go back to the doctor and deal with this, or must I sit and wait for the consequences of him ignoring his health to happen?

WIFE WHO CARES IN IOWA

DEAR WIFE: Try this: "I love you. But I'm worried sick about the state of your health. I need US to start being more health conscious because WE are still young enough to do something about it if our lifestyle needs improving. This is why I am making appointments for physical exams for both of us every year, and I expect you to come with me."

Cookbooks have been written on the subject of heart-healthy diets. It may be time to incorporate some of these guidelines into your menu planning. If you do, you may feel less frustrated, and your husband may not even realize you are helping him.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Last night, my husband and I were eating at a popular restaurant when the owner started talking to the diners at the next table.

The topic was bathrooms—what people leave behind and cleaning up after them. The people he was talking to had finished their dinner by the time we sat down, so this subject didn't bother them. I got up, tapped the owner on the shoulder and asked if he could please talk about something else because people within earshot were eating. He took offense and said it shouldn't bother anyone. Then he ordered me to go get my money back and leave.

I sat back down to try to finish eating when he came over, THREW money on our table, told us to leave immediately and not to come back! My husband and I were dumbfounded. We stared at each other for a moment, then left our plates and walked out.

Was I wrong? Was I overly sensitive or rude? We were brought up not to discuss bodily functions at the dinner table. If I had been the owner, I would have apologized and changed the subject. I am so offended by this. If I was wrong, I will send the owner a written apology.

HEARD TOO MUCH IN INDIANA

DEAR HEARD: You do not owe the restaurant owner an apology. The man's reaction was over the top. Discussing what people leave behind in the restroom that needs cleaning up is definitely not a subject for public consumption in a restaurant dining room. I cannot imagine why you would want to set foot in that establishment again.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I sent a fruit basket to a neighbor across the street after her brother's death, but I never heard from her. Should I ask if she got it?

PONDERING IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR PONDERING: You were thoughtful to send food. But give your neighbor a few weeks before asking that question. She may be grieving and not yet organized enough to begin thanking people for their thoughtfulness. If the eventual answer is no, contact the VENDOR and ask for a refund.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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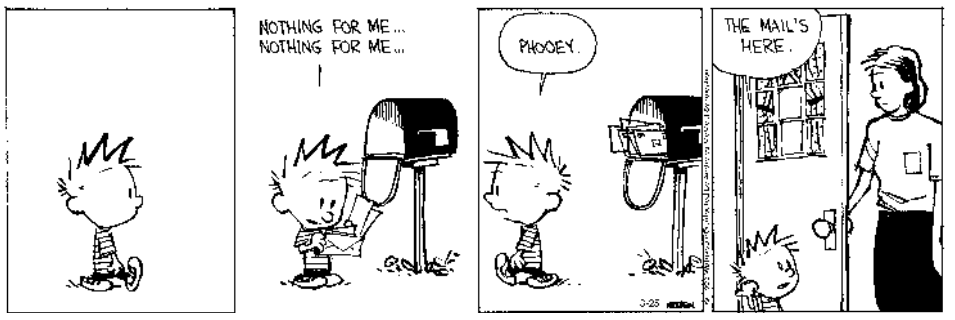
Pastimes

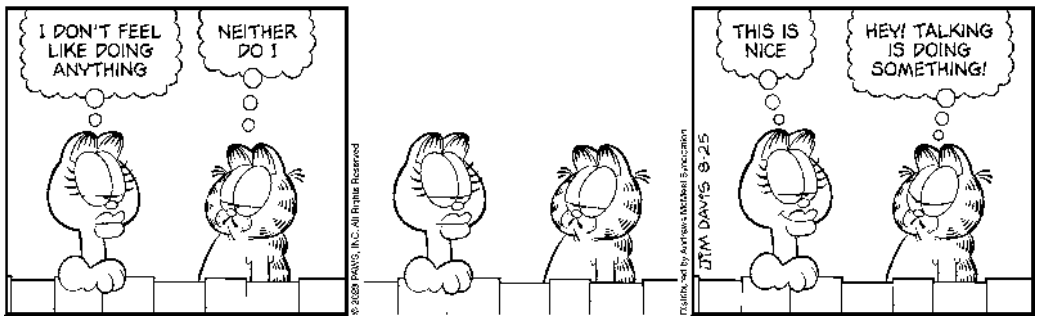
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



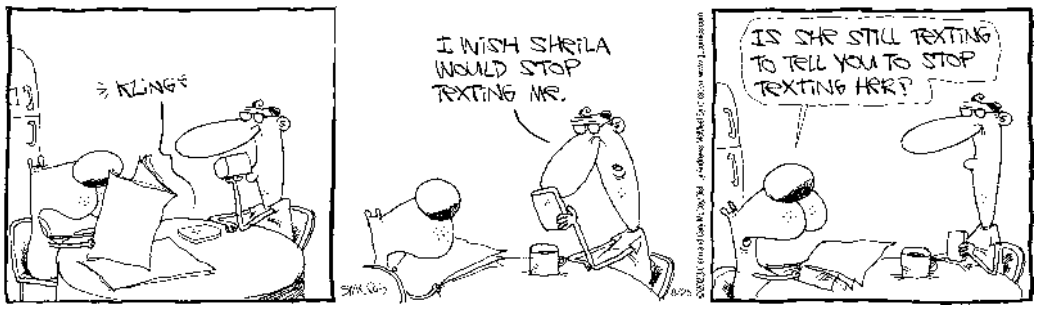
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SO, I THINK OF A CHARACTER. AND THEN I JUST... WRITE.
THAT'S YOUR SECRET? WHAT ABOUT PLOT AND MEANING AND ALL THAT?
THAT PART JUST... WORKS ITSELF OUT.
WORKS ITSELF OUT, SHE SAYS.
KEEP GOING. I ENJOY SURLY DAD.
8-25

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pocket breads
6 Salty expanse
9 Bud
12 Not moving
13 Gore and Green
14 Genetic letters
15 Concur
16 Famed escape artist
18 Rum cocktail
20 Love god
21 Hosp. scan
23 Hide-hair insert
24 Unravels
25 Predicament
27 Out of order
29 Fly a plane
31 "Queen of Soul" Franklin
35 "Olympia" painter
37 Banquet platform
38 Sunday entree
41 Recline
43 Code-breaking gp.
44 Rim
45 Bratislava resident
47 "La Dolce Vita" director
49 Online party reminder
52 Tours season
53 Eastern "way"
54 Dressed to the —
55 Nonsense
56 Select, with "for"
57 Sully

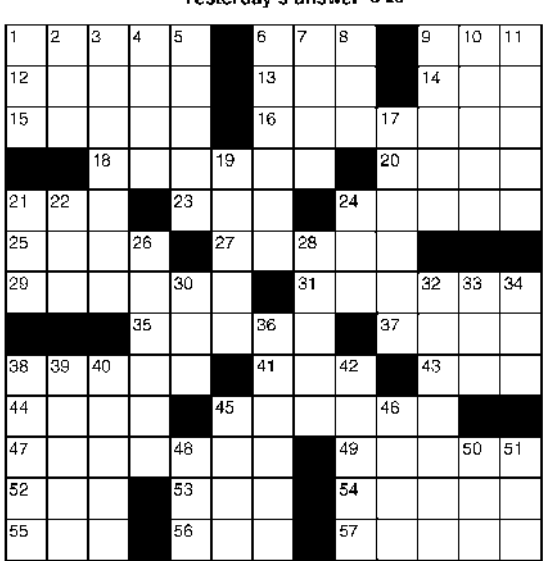
DOWN

1 Entertainer Zadora
2 Gerund suffix
3 Ends
4 Region
5 Beer mug
6 African desert
7 Sci-fi race
8 Tempe sch.
9 — donna
10 Pester
11 Hideaways
17 Zipped
19 Memento
21 CEO's deg.
22 Body of water (Abbr.)
24 Cat's coat
26 Maiden
28 Barbecue site
30 Bit of ink
32 Modest two-piece swimsuit
33 That chap's
34 Simile center
36 Mama Cass
38 Direct (to)
39 "— a Nightingale"
40 Shoelace tip
42 News item
45 Lose it
46 Athletic shoe brand
48 Jurist Lance
50 X, at times
51 Ballpark fig.

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	S	S	N	■	A	S	K	■	M	A	N	I
H	O	P	I	■	L	E	E	■	A	R	O	N
A	L	E	C	■	L	A	T	■	I	M	O	K
B	E	C	O	M	E	■	O	U	T	C	R	Y
■	■	■	L	A	Y	■	■	A	A	A	■	■
B	H	A	E	■	C	L	A	H	I	N	E	I
O	E	R	■	■	A	I	R	■	■	D	U	A
P	A	I	E	N	I	E	E	■	G	Y	R	O
■	■	C	V	I	■	■	A	G	A	■	■	■
K	A	L	I	N	G	■	C	O	Z	I	E	R
I	M	A	C	■	I	W	O	■	E	G	G	O
C	O	S	I	■	B	A	D	■	B	O	A	R
K	I	S	S	■	E	Y	E	■	O	R	L	Y

Yesterday's answer 8-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Blake Lively, 36; Blair Underwood, 59; Tim Burton, 65; Elvis Costello, 69.

Happy Birthday: Thoughts followed by actions will get you where you want to go this year. A confident attitude backed with facts and foolproof plans will help you glide through any interference you face. Don't let your generosity be your downfall. Set expectations, and reveal your budget and the goal you hope to achieve. Know your target, stick to a budget and finish what you start. Your numbers are 5, 11, 20, 24, 33, 38, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Do something that boosts your confidence. Make plans with someone you love to hang out with, or sign up for something that interests you and is conducive to making new friends. Personal growth and physical improvement are favored. Make romance a priority. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take your time, think and respond with grace and dignity. Don't get involved in joint ventures, emotional spending or overindulgence. Honesty is favored; make your voice heard, and stand by your word. Set boundaries and protect your reputation. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Emotions will dictate how things unfold. Choose positive over negative, go about your business, and don't believe everything you hear or react to what others do or say. The choice to have a great day by spending time with someone you love is yours. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Know your budget before you agree to something unaffordable. Hidden costs and temptation will set you back. A responsible approach, your discipline and experience, coupled with a hand-picked team you can depend on, will get you where you want to go. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Do something you enjoy with someone you love. Stay within budget and make fond memories that don't put you in debt or cause stress. A heart-to-heart talk will help establish plans that offer something to look forward to. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Slow down, think matters through, pay attention to detail and don't let your emotions cost you. Change can be good, but it must be under the right conditions and to your specifications. Don't let anyone use tactics to manipulate your decision. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take pressing matters into your hands and do whatever it takes to preserve the fundamentals that make your life easier. Maintenance will pay off and, over time, save you a bundle. A disciplined routine will ensure you get everything done on time. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Resolve emotional or physical issues swiftly and move on to matters that can bring about positive change. Be open to suggestions, but don't give in to someone or something that doesn't help you reach your objective. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You'll end up in a tight spot if your emotions dictate how you handle matters. Someone will offer false information to gain approval. Do your best to decide between fact and fiction. You'll benefit most if you put your energy into self-improvement. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll gain access to information that can be beneficial if used properly. A networking function will offer insight into the value of your skills and knowledge and an opening that interests you. Practice integrity. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't sit on the fence; decide or someone will jump in and take over. Put a call in to an expert or someone you trust to offer sound advice, and carry on with confidence. Personal gain is apparent but will come at a cost. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Protect your possessions, and don't let anyone goad you into something that benefits them more than you. It's up to you to enforce changes conducive to getting what you want. A change of scenery will stimulate your mind. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are playful, social and charitable. You are loving and proud.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1	3			4			
5								
2						7	1	
		5	4				9	
		6			9			
	9				7	4		
		2	7		3		5	
4			9	2				
			6			1		7

Difficulty: ★★★★ 8/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	7	3	2	8	9	1	6	5
9	6	2	4	5	1	3	8	7
5	8	1	7	3	6	2	4	9
8	1	9	3	4	7	6	5	2
7	2	6	5	1	8	9	3	4
3	4	5	6	9	2	7	1	8
2	3	7	8	6	5	4	9	1
6	9	8	1	7	4	5	2	3
1	5	4	9	2	3	8	7	6

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/24

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GOURMET PEPPER MELANGE — Solution: 5 letters

P	U	N	G	E	N	T	A	E	M	K	C	O	T	S
O	T	A	T	O	P	O	U	L	T	R	Y	A	T	S
T	H	A	M	B	U	R	G	E	R	S	N	E	E	C
E	S	P	E	C	I	A	L	T	Y	G	W	C	E	E
N	I	Y	H	T	R	A	E	N	P	R	H	I	W	N
T	F	E	P	E	C	U	R	R	Y	E	C	H	S	T
T	F	L	R	P	U	O	S	E	E	C	S	G	G	E
Y	L	B	A	U	C	C	S	Ⓢ	Ⓟ	Ⓘ	Ⓓ	S	C	N
R	K	A	H	V	T	U	E	S	D	P	E	E	I	D
A	N	T	S	E	O	X	T	B	E	E	I	A	N	E
N	A	E	L	H	M	R	E	E	R	L	R	F	A	R
I	L	I	B	E	T	S	A	T	L	A	D	O	G	L
L	F	U	A	R	O	M	A	F	E	E	B	O	R	O
U	L	L	I	R	G	R	O	U	N	D	M	D	O	I
C	O	L	O	R	F	U	L	S	I	R	L	O	I	N

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Aroma, Barbecue, Beef, Cheese, Chef, Club House, Colorful, Corn, Culinary, Curry, Dips, Dish, Dried, Earthy, Eggs, Filet, Fish, Flank, Flavor, Grill, Ground, Hamburger, Meal, Meat, Noodles, Omelet, Organic, Potato, Potent, Poultry, Pungent, Recipe, Salt, Scent, Seafood, Sharp, Sirloin, Soup, Specialty, Stew, Stock, Sweet, Table, Tang, Taste, Tenderloin, Texture

Yesterday's Answer: Hydraulic

The NEW TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION #1 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Judge hits 3 homers as Yankees end 9-game skid, beating Nationals

NEW YORK (AP)—Aaron Judge had his first big league three-homer game and tied his career high with six RBIs, almost single-handedly breaking the New York Yankees' first nine-game losing streak in 41 years with a 9-1 victory over the Washington Nationals on Wednesday night.

Two hours after general manager Brian Cashman called the season "a disaster," Judge drove a first-inning curveball from MacKenzie Gore (6-10) over the Yankees bullpen in right-center.

Judge opened a 6-0 lead in the second with his fifth career grand slam, a shot into the netting above Monument Park in center field. Then in the seventh he combined with DJ LeMahieu for back-to-back homers against Jose A. Ferrer, popping the ball over the right-field short porch just inside the foul pole.

Last-place New York (61-65) had been within a loss of what would have been its first 10-game losing streak since 1913.

Luis Severino (3-8) allowed one hit and matched a season high with 6 2/3 innings.

Ian Hamilton and Wandy Peralta finished a three-hitter. Dominic Smith homered for the Nationals with two outs in the ninth.

AP

New York Yankees' Aaron Judge, left, celebrates with Jake Bauers after the team's baseball game against the Washington Nationals on Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023, in New York.

REDS 7, ANGELS 3, 2ND GAME
REDS 9, ANGELS 4, 1ST GAME

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Shohei Ohtani abruptly left the mound in the second with a torn ligament after hitting his major league-leading 44th homer in the first inning during Los Angeles' loss to Cincinnati in the first game of a doubleheader.

Ohtani won't pitch for the rest of the season because of the tear in his elbow ligament, Angels GM Perry Minasian announced after the second game. The Angels don't yet know whether he will need surgery.

Ohtani doubled and scored as Los Angeles' designated hitter in the nightcap, but Orange County native Matt McLain homered and drove in three runs as Cincinnati swept a three-game series with the Angels for the first time.

Elly De La Cruz had a career-high six RBIs with a three-run homer and a three-run triple in the opener for Cincinnati. Tyler Stephenson hit a two-run homer in the second game.

In the opener, Ohtani faced six batters and threw 26 pitches before he departed. He got more tests on his arm between games, and he was back in the Angels' lineup for the nightcap.

Buck Farmer (4-5) threw 1 2/3 innings of scoreless relief for Cincinnati in the opener. Tyler Anderson (5-5) relieved Ohtani and allowed just one earned run over 4 2/3 innings for the Angels.

Lyon Richardson pitched four-hit ball into the fifth inning of his second start for Cincinnati. Lucas Sims (4-3) got the win.

Reid Detmers (3-10) yielded seven hits and four runs over five innings in the nightcap.

BREWERS 8, TWINS 7, 10 INNINGS

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Brice Turang beat out an infield hit with two outs in the 10th inning to bring home Willy Adames with the winning run, and Milwaukee beat Minnesota.

Adames also homered for the second straight day and singled home the tying run earlier in the 10th to help the NL Central-leading Brewers complete a two-game sweep and win their fifth straight. Milwaukee rallied from a three-run deficit.

The Brewers trailed 7-6 before Adames led off the bottom of the 10th with a single up the middle off Jhoan Durán (2-6) that drove in automatic runner Carlos Santana. With Adames on third, Turang hit a chopper to the left side of the infield and beat third baseman Royce Lewis' throw to first.

The AL Central-leading Twins took the lead in the 10th when Ryan Jeffers' two-out infield single scored Joey Gallo from third. Jeffers fell down on his way to first but still slid in safely ahead of the throw from pitcher Elvis Peguero (4-4), who initially mishandled the slow dribbler toward the third-base line.

ORIOLES 7, BLUE JAYS 0

BALTIMORE (AP)—Anthony Santander homered twice, Dean Kremer threw six innings of five-hit ball and Baltimore beat Toronto.

The Orioles extended their streak of series without being swept to 80 and maintained their two-game lead in the AL East over Tampa Bay. Toronto fell one game behind Seattle for the final AL wild-card spot.

Kremer (12-5) struck out five and walked none. Relievers Jacob Webb, Yennier Cano and Shintaro Fujinami completed a five-hitter.

Kevin Gausman (9-8) allowed two runs and five hits with nine strikeouts and one walk over six innings. Gausman took over the AL lead in strikeouts with 196.

BRAVES 7, METS 0

ATLANTA (AP)—Charlie Morton gave up two hits in seven innings while allowing no runs for the third straight start as Atlanta beat New York.

Marcell Ozuna drove in four runs with three hits including a two-run homer. The majors-leading Braves won two of three from New York, finishing 10-3 in the season series.

The 39-year-old Morton (13-10) set a season high with 11 strikeouts, his second straight game with double-digit strikeouts and the 27th of his career.

Ozuna singled in a run off José Quintana (1-5) in the first and again drove in Austin Riley in the sixth, this time with a double to center field. His homer off Phil Bickford in the seventh was his 28th.

RED SOX 7, ASTROS 5, 10 INNINGS

HOUSTON (AP)—Adam Duvall's three-run home run in the 10th inning was his third homer of the series and lifted Boston over Houston.

Rafael Devers started the 10th as the automatic runner on second, and Kendall Graveman (3-6) walked Triston Casas with one out. Duvall then smacked his 14th homer to put the Red Sox on top 7-4.

Chas McCormick singled with Kyle Tucker on second to start the 10th before the Astros cut it to 7-5 on an RBI single by Yainer Díaz.

The Astros could have moved into a tie with the Texas Rangers for first place in the AL West with a victory. But instead fell a game behind the Rangers, who were off Wednesday after losing six straight.

Nick Pivetta (9-6) picked up the win. For Houston, Martín Maldonado hit a two-run homer in the second.

RAYS 6, ROCKIES 5, 10 INNINGS

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Brandon Lowe hit a game-ending single leading off the 10th inning, and Tampa Bay rallied from another late deficit against Colorado.

Lowe's hit to right off Brent Suter (4-2) scored automatic runner Osleivis Basabe.

AL batting leader Yandy Díaz went 2 for 4 and tied the game at 5-all with a two-run single in the ninth off Rockies closer Justin Lawrence. Pete Fairbanks (2-4) pitched a perfect 10th.

Randy Arozarena and Isaac Paredes homered for the AL wild card-leading Rays, who scored nine times in the eighth inning to win Tuesday's series opener 12-4.

WHITE SOX 5, MARINERS 4, 10 INNINGS

CHICAGO (AP)—Automatic runner Tim Anderson stole third and scored the winning run on a throwing error by shortstop J.P. Crawford—all on a failed pickoff play—as Chicago snapped Seattle's season-best eight-game winning streak.

Anderson was leading off second base when Seattle catcher Cal Raleigh tried to pick him off following a pitch from Justin Topa (3-4). Crawford took the throw from Raleigh and threw wildly to third. The Mariners couldn't handle the overthrow and Anderson scored.

Sammy Peralta (2-0), the last of six Chicago relievers, earned the win.

The Mariners rallied for three runs in the ninth to go ahead 4-3. The White Sox tied it in the bottom half.

GIANTS 8, PHILLIES 6, 10 INNINGS

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Paul DeJong hit a two-run homer in the fourth inning and a two-run single in the 10th in his debut for San Francisco.

The Giants salvaged the final game of their three-game series, rebounding after closer Camilo Doval allowed a tying, three-run homer in the ninth to Philadelphia's Bryce Harper.

It was Doval's fourth straight blown save and second in two days after recording 33 saves in 36 opportunities.

In the 10th, DeJong singled to center off Craig Kimbrel (7-4). Thairo Estrada's sacrifice fly provided an extra cushion for Ryan Walker, who got his first save of the year as the 10th Giants pitcher of the day. Jakob Junis (3-3) was the winner.

CUBS 6, TIGERS 4

DETROIT (AP)—Yan Gomes hit a tiebreaking, two-out single in the eighth inning and Chicago beat Detroit.

The Tigers' Kerry Carpenter hit a grand slam in the sixth inning off Jameson Taillon that tied the game at 4-all, but his teammates didn't do much else at the plate.

The Cubs, who hold the second NL wild-card spot, have won 24 of their last 34 games and took two of three from the Tigers, improving to 9-1-1 in their last 11 series.

Julian Merryweather (5-1) struck out three in 1 1/3 innings. Adbert Alzolay pitched the ninth for his 19th save.

In the eighth, Ian Happ had a one-out infield hit against Beau Brieske (0-2), who walked Seiya Suzuki with two outs and then yielded Gomes' single to left.

CARDINALS 6, PIRATES 4

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Richie Palacios had a career-best three hits and drove in two runs, and last-place St. Louis beat Pittsburgh to avoid a three-game sweep.

Zack Thompson (3-5) gave up two runs on six hits with five strikeouts in five innings. His outing was ended by a 92-minute rain delay with two outs in the top of the sixth.

JoJo Romero struck out three in the final two innings for his third save, allowing an RBI double from Connor Joe with two outs in the ninth.

Luis Ortiz (2-4) lasted 3 1/3 innings, surrendering five runs on seven hits and five walks.

PADRES 4, MARLINS 0

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Seth Lugo allowed three hits in six innings, Xander Bogaerts hit a two-run homer and San Diego beat Miami.

Lugo combined on a four-hitter with four relievers—including Robert Suarez, who didn't face a batter. Suarez was ejected in the eighth following an inspection by umpires, who said he had sticky stuff on his left wrist and arm.

Lugo (5-6) struck out four. Sandy Alcantara (6-11) allowed four runs on seven hits in 6 2/3 innings.

ROYALS 4, ATHLETICS 0

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Cole Ragans matched a career high with 11 strikeouts in six scoreless innings, Bobby Witt Jr. hit his 26th homer and Kansas City beat Oakland to avoid a three-game sweep.

Ragans (5-4) limited the A's to two singles, improving to 3-1 with a 2.08 ERA in six starts since being traded from Texas on June 30.

Dairon Blanco hit his first career homer off A's starter Adrián Martínez (0-2) in the third inning.

Oakland loaded the bases with one out in the eighth inning, but Carlos Hernández retired Seth Brown and Zack Gelof. Hernández also pitched the ninth to record his third save in six opportunities.

DODGERS 3, GUARDIANS 1, SUSPENDED, 2 INNINGS

CLEVELAND (AP)—Heavy rain forced a suspension after two innings with Los Angeles leading Cleveland 3-1.

The game was set to resume at 12:10 p.m. Thursday.

Kiké Hernández had a two-run double for the Dodgers, and José Ramírez homered for the Guardians.

Dodgers left-hander Clayton Kershaw and Guardians right-hander Xzavion Curry were on the mound when play was halted.

FIBA World Cup 2023: How to watch, who's playing, who's favored and more

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Basketball World Cup—FIBA's biggest tournament—starts Friday, spread out across three countries for the first two rounds before all the biggest games get played in Manila to decide which nation will go home with gold medals and the Naismith Trophy on Sept. 10.

Spain is the defending champion, having won in China four years ago. The U.S. was only seventh in that tournament, its worst finish ever in a major international event. But the Americans have high hopes, and enter as the tournament favorites.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Start with gold medals for the winners, possession of the Naismith Trophy, the chance to spend the next four years as the reigning World Cup champions. The gold medal game is in Manila on Sept. 10.

There are tournaments within the tournament, though—with another very big prize.

Out of this World Cup, seven teams will directly qualify for the Paris Olympics based on their finish. It'll be the top two teams from the Americas Region, the top two from Europe, and one each from Africa, Asia and Oceania.

Spain, Argentina, France, Australia, the U.S., Nigeria and Iran were the seven nations that used World Cup finishes to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics.

France has already qualified for the Olympics as the host nation. The seven teams that make it out of World Cup will be joined by four other nations—to be determined in July 2024—as part of the 12-team field for Paris 2024

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TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

The 32 teams were split into eight groups of four. The top two teams from each group will make the second round. The top eight teams after the second round advance to the quarterfinals.

Here's a list of all the opening games for all 32 teams:

FRIDAY

■ Group A (at Manila): Angola vs. Italy, Dominican Republic vs. Philippines

■ Group D (at Manila): Mexico vs. Montenegro, Egypt vs. Lithuania

■ Group E (at Okinawa): Finland vs. Australia, Germany vs. Japan

■ Group H (at Jakarta): Latvia vs. Lebanon, Canada vs. France

SATURDAY

■ Group B (at Manila): South Sudan vs. Puerto Rico, Serbia vs. China

■ Group C (at Manila): Jordan vs. Greece, U.S. vs. New Zealand

■ Group F (at Okinawa): Cape Verde vs. Georgia, Slovenia vs. Venezuela

■ Group G (at Jakarta): Iran vs. Brazil, Spain vs. Ivory Coast

HOW TO WATCH THE BASKETBALL WORLD CUP

■ In the U.S.: The first three U.S. games (Aug. 26, Aug. 28, Aug. 30) will be on ESPN2. Aug. 26 and Aug. 28 games will begin at 8:40 a.m. EDT; the Aug. 30 game begins at 4:40 a.m. EDT.

■ There are streaming options for other games.

AP

A man plays basketball in front of a wall painted with JIP, the FIBA Basketball World Cup mascot, Thursday, Aug. 17, 2023, in Taguig city Philippines.

PREDICTIONS

FIBA released results of a pre-tournament poll Thursday, and as expected, the U.S. is the overwhelming favorite to win the World Cup.

The U.S. got 61.5% of votes, followed by France (9.9%), defending champion Spain (8.7%), Slovenia (4.3%) and Australia (3.7%).

Other poll predictions: 92.5% of those polled believe the U.S. will medal, followed by France (49.1%) and Spain (42.2%). The U.S. was also tabbed as the team with the most pressure to win (61.5%), followed by the Philippines (11.2%).

Anthony Edwards of the U.S. is the pre-tournament pick to win MVP (21.1%), ahead of Slovenia's Luka Doncic (13.8%) and U.S. guard Jalen Brunson (10.5%).

Doncic was picked as the player expected to lead the tournament in both points and assists per game, while France's Rudy Gobert was picked to lead the tournament in rebounds per game and be the best defender. Doncic also was — by far — the pick to take the shot with the game on the line, getting 45% of votes, well ahead of Edwards' 8.6%.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Rosters won't be finalized until later this week, but expect at least 20 of the 32 teams to have at least one NBA player on the roster. The U.S. is the only team with all 12 players hailing from the NBA.

Canada has a slew of NBA talent, as would be expected, including Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, RJ Barrett, Kelly Olynyk, Dillon Brooks, Lu Dort, Nickell Alexander-Walker and Dwight Powell.

Among the other big NBA names on non-U.S. rosters: Luka Doncic (Slovenia), Karl-Anthony Towns (Dominican Republic), Jordan Clarkson (Philippines), Kyle Anderson (China), Rudy Gobert (France), Evan Fournier (France), Nicolas Batum (France), Davis Bertans (Latvia), Patty Mills (Australia), Joe Ingles (Australia), Lauri Markkanen (Finland), Josh Giddey (Australia), Josh Green (Australia), Matisse Thybulle (Australia), Dennis Schroder (Germany), Franz Wagner (Germany), Moritz Wagner (Germany), Bogdan Bogdanovic (Serbia) and Nikola Vucevic (Montenegro).

BETTING GUIDE

The U.S. is the overwhelming favorite to win the World Cup, according to FanDuel Sportsbook, with the Americans' odds listed at minus-130 (meaning a $130 wager on the Americans would return $230, if they won). Australia and Canada are tied as the second choice, both at plus-750 (a $100 wager would return $750), followed by France at plus-1,000. Want some value? Try Slovenia; Luka Doncic's team has odds of plus-3,000.

WHAT TO KNOW

What you need to know about the Basketball World Cup, and the U.S. road to getting here:

■ The basketball-crazed Philippines is about to have a shining moment

■ As World Cup nears, U.S. team says it'll embrace any doubters

■ U.S. finishes exhibition season 5-0 after rallying to beat Germany

SAIPAN

From page 24

team win. Without him, we can't win the game. He's the point god!" he said.

Saipan CNMI 670 finished the regular season with a dismal 4-5 win-loss record, while their victims in the quarterfinals, Seattle The Bros, only had two losses in nine games.

De Luna said he will Facebook Live their game against Parkland Faith Fighters this weekend.

The other semifinal pairing in the 2023 Net Rippers Basketball League will have No. 1 Bremerton Destroyers (7-1) going up against Lakewood JBLM (4-6).

MAMAAW

From page 24

Mac went scoreless.

PayDayHao 19, Kebruka 12

In a much closer game, PayDayHao defeated Kebruka, 19-12.

PayDayHao pitcher JoJo Attao started their quest for the win in the second inning as he hit a two-RBI home run, followed by TinDin Leon Guerrero's solo shot. Eli Aughenbaugh then hit a two-run RBI after Darion Jones came home from Mark Vilagomez' double, for a 6-0 lead.

Kebruka scored just two runs from a two-RBI home run by Nosh Palacios. Kebruka could not get a hit off Attao in the third and PayDayHao's three-run inning went unanswered, for a 9-2 game.

PayDayHao scored six more runs in the fifth inning after Kebruka got three more on the board in the fourth, but were still behind. Kebruka scored two in the fifth, but by then PayDayHao's lead was eight, 15-7.

PayDayHao added four more runs in the sixth inning and after Kebruka tried to make for a comeback, scored just five runs—for a seven-run deficit, 19-12.

Ready Mix lost via forfeit against Saipal.

670

From page 23

Back-to-back 3-pointers by A Plus' Oliver Rivera added to their lead and by the end of the game, had scored the most with 19 points. Along with his shooting accuracy was the help from Joel Javier's 11 points.

Although Blue Haus players scored more individually—with Jay-R Barrios at 25 markers and Elmer Esdrelon at 20, it just wasn't enough to get past A Plus' top tier clutch shots and defense.

As of Aug. 23, the team standings in the open division Pool A are: Easy Riders 2-0; Lovings Hands 2-0; Solid North 2-1; The Game 1-1; Socho 1-2; Winners Group 1-2; Home Smart 0-1; and Priority Care 0-2.

In the open division Pool B, Checkpoint is at 3-0; CK Saints 3-0; Vik Team 1-1; JTM Saipan 1-1; Bridge Capital 1-2; 670 Rollers 1-2, Choju 0-2; and IT&E 0-2.

In the masters division, A Plus Team is at 2-0; Blue Haus leads 2-1; JSN 1-0; Vizion has yet to play; Legends Team 0-1; Win Pacific 0-1; Long Shot 0-1; and Lakay 0-1.

First Game

A Plus Team 75 – Rivera 19, Javier 11, Natividad 8, Libuw 7, Camacho 6, Sanchez 6, Diaz 5, Wesley 4, Mendiola 4, Ashburn 3, Reign 2.

Blue Haus 69 – Barrios 25, Esdrelon 20, Ed Diaz 9, Tony Diaz 8, De Dios 3, Talania 2, Santos 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-22, 40-33, 61-50, 75-69.

Second Game

670 Rollers 101 – Raquepo 19, Eugenio 17, Sablan 15, Pelisamen 10, Viana 9, Asauo 9, Cruz 8, Laxamana 5, Factor 5, Deleon Guerrero 2, Ong 2.

IT&E 51 – Giron 19, Brian Natividad 7, Madreo 6, De Guzman 5, Billy Natividad 4, Macaraig 4, Pineda 3, Pagcaliwagan 2, Jose 1.

Scoring by quarters: 24-9, 52-21, 79-36, 101-51.

TRYOUTS

From page 24

outs, Angeles said that "It was a good turnout." There were 29 boys and 14 girls and is expecting more new players to show up in the next sessions.

He said the JNA's goal is to develop players individually to be creative, tough, and play collectively, "focusing on individual basic techniques and lots of 1v1 and 2v2 in different game situations. These are the fundamental skills that a player needs to build in preparation for their entry to the National Team."

The tryouts are open to all boys and girls born in 2011, 2012, or 2013. They must be a U.S. passport holder, born in the NMI, or a Green Card holder.

The requirements for players are: they must be registered in a club, can arrange their own transportation to trainings and games, and willing to attend at least 90% of the total training sessions (at least 37 sessions).

The official training schedule is from Sept. 14, 2023 to March 21, 2024, every Tuesday and Thursday from 4pm to 6pm.

A selection of committed players will travel to Guam from March 25 to 28, 2024 to have friendly matches with Guam teams.

Triple J, Island Training Solutions sponsor hole-in-one prizes

Triple J Saipan and Island Training Solutions are lending their full support to the 2023 Marianas Tourism Golf Classic with donations of $5,000 cash each in hole-in-one prizes.

The tournament, slated for Sept. 2, 2023, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course will help fund the education work of Marianas Tourism Education Council, a non-profit which focuses on community outreach, and school tourism MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Clubs.

"We're excited to be a part of the Marianas Tourism Golf Classic, and we're proud to support the Marianas Tourism Education Council and its continuing mission to promote tourism as everyone's business," said Triple J Marketing manager Brad Ruszala. "MTEC has been promoting the Hafa Adai-Tirow spirit for more than two decades, and we hope to see it continue for many more years. Aside from the $5,000 prize, our hole-in-one sponsorship will feature additional prizes from our companies that cater to local and visiting clientele, like Payless Superfresh and Truckload Store, Great Harvest Bread Company, Surf Club restaurant, Surfrider Resort Hotel, and Hertz/Dollar Car Rental."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J Marketing manager Brad Ruszala, far left, and other management and staff present a $5,000 cash hole-in-one prize on Aug. 21, 2023, at Surfrider Resort in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, for the Marianas Tourism Golf Classic to be held on Sept. 2, 2023, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Island Training Solutions owner Jim Arenovski, second right, receives a courtesy call from officers of the Marianas Tourism Education Council at his office in Susupe.

Island Training Solutions owner Jim Arenovski, meanwhile, said his company supports MTEC's mission for educating the CNMI's youth on the importance of tourism and hospitality for our island economy.

"Education on tourism and the many smaller industries it supports is key to the industries' success. Our citizens are a part of the tourism industry simply by being here. The importance of positive, friendly interactions with our visitors cannot be overstated. The service visitors get restaurants, retail shops, and hotels, along with the public they meet driving and walking around our island, may determine whether they choose to return and whether they will tell others to return," he said.

MTEC marks its 22nd anniversary this year. Other hole-in-one prizes at the tournament are a 2023 Honda HRV Sport from Joeten Motors, $5,000 cash from Triple J Saipan Inc., and a $10,000 shopping spree from Top Shelf Wines & Spirits.

"Tourism creates jobs and careers," Arenovski added. "Young people who want to be close to their families and culture do not need to leave our island for better opportunities, those opportunities are right here. We support MTEC's effort because tourism education needs to start early and the more people that embrace tourism."

Tournament registration is $120 until today, Aug. 25. After Friday, registration increases to $140. Optional play is $30. Only 144 players will be registered. No refunds will be issued after August 25. Registration—including payment—is being accepted at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort (credit card or cash only) and the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) office (cash or check only) on Beach Road, Garapan, in the Gold Beach Hotel building. Checks should be made payable to Marianas Tourism Education Council. Registration forms and sponsorship details are now available on The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.

The tournament format will be medal play. Flight categories are Championship (0-5), A Flight (6-10), B Flight (11-16), C Flight (17+), Ladies, Senior (ages 55-60), and Super Senior (ages 61 and above). Showtime on Sept. 2 is 6am. with a shotgun start at 7am. The awards luncheon will immediately follow the tournament.

For more information, contact Marianas Tourism Golf Classic Committee chair Martin Duenas at mduenas@mymarianas.com or committee member Jack Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or call (670) 664.3200/1. ***(PR)***

670 Rollers steamrolls IT&E, 101-51

670 Rollers steamrolled IT&E, 101-51, for their first win in the open division of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG-Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

From the first whistle, it was clear the Rollers were on a mission to win this game and get their team out of an 0-2 gutter. The Rollers were set to dominate IT&E from the very first quarter as they put up 24 points, while IT&E scraped up just 9.

IT&E's missed opportunities and haphazard attempts at the basket did nothing to assist their cause to make points—let alone make a comeback.

Arjay Giron was a one-man show as he tried to lead IT&E from a dismal low-scoring two quarters and ended the game as the only one in double digits with 19. On the other hand, while IT&E's offense was lacking, the Rollers were on a roll throughout the game.

Rollers standouts John Kae Raquepo, Nyrel Eugenio, and Christopher Sablan were a triple-threat as Raquepo scored 19, Eugenio made 17, and Sablan shot 15.

Their precision shooting and seemingly telepathic court vision allowed the three of them and the rest of the team to rack up points until it was a full blown, blow out game by the end of it.

In the first game that night, A Plus Team handed Blue Haus their first loss of the league, in a much closer 75-69 final.

A Plus put up an A for effort against the once undefeated Blue Haus, but it was not without a struggle in this fiercely contested matchup.

Blue Haus was a powerhouse through the first quarter as they led 22-15 at the end of it, but that was the only lead they held onto.

A Plus switched up their defense and their offense and went into fast and furious mode as they banked shot after shot, leaving Blue Haus in the dust. Although Blue Haus was never too far behind, 3-pointers were the game plan of A Plus to ensure their lead held firm.

See 670 on Page 22

Last round of MRA race this Sunday

The seventh and last round of the 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race will unfurl this Sunday, Aug. 27, at the Cowtown Race Track.

Three riders currently are perfect for the season as Dave Celis of the Veterans Class, Vicente "Beng" Palacios of the Novice Class, and Maribel Igitol of the Mama Class all have swept their races and accumulated 250 points each.

The Expert Class is currently being led by Justis "Cuki" Alvarez with his 229 points, while the Mini II Class has T.J. Ferrer and his 218 points holding the fort.

Corry Pangelinan and his 247 points is the runaway leader in the Intermediate Class, while the Peewee ATV Class is spearheaded by Nakoa Torres and 238 points.

Elleayah Cruz tops the Mini I Class with 200 points with Anella Igitol doing the same in the Mini ATV Class with her 194 points.

The Peewee I Class has Bentley Koshiro and his 150 points in front with Christian "Hollywood" Camacho (50 points) so far winning the debut of the Big Boy ATV Class last month.

The Marianas Racing Association is inviting all race fans to attend this Sunday's final series and cheer for their favorite motocross riders. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Judge hits 3 homers as Yankees end 9-game skid, beating Nationals.

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Sports

Triple J, Island Training Solutions sponsor hole-in-one prizes.

PAGE 23

Mamaaw mashes Team Mac, 29-13

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Mamaaw mashed Team Mac, 29-13, in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.

Shots were fired early by Mamaaw as they scored three runs in the first inning with assistance from Team Mac's fielding errors. Team Mac tried to right their wrongs as they eagerly tied up the game from a three-run home run by Shane Pangelinan in their at-bat.

However, Mamaaw's Ian Norita led his team to victory as he scored in four plate appearances—with three big home runs in consecutive innings. He hit a three-run home run in the second, a two-run shot in the third, and a grand slam in the fourth.

Team Mac scored four, with a three-run shot by Dave Malwelbug in the second inning, right after Mamaaw scored four as well for a still tied ball game, 7-7.

But, thanks to Norita, Mamaaw scored eight runs in the third inning. Kodik Lifoifoi also added a two-run home run in that inning for a huge 15-7 lead.

Team Mac went cold in the third inning and that was the beginning of the end for them as Mamaaw extended their lead even further after a 9-run fourth inning for a 24-7 game. Team Mac could only drudge up five runs in their at-bat from a grand slam by Pangelinan, and it wasn't close to enough.

Mamaaw wasn't done as they scored five more in the last inning and got the W as Team

See MAMAAW on Page 22

LEIGH GASES

In this file photo, Mamaaw pitcher Clint Quitugua throws a pitch during one of their games in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League at the DanDan Softball Field.

Tryouts for Junior National Academy 2023-2024 ongoing

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's soccer tryouts for the Junior National Academy 2023-2024 is currently ongoing at the NMISTC in Koblerville.

The tryouts began last Tuesday and continued yesterday. It will be held again on Aug. 29 and 31 from 4pm to 6pm.

Jershwin Angeles, NMIFA coach, said in an email that the main objective of this program "is for our youth players to learn the essential fundamental skills of football and to build a strong foundation needed to become a NMI National Team player in the future."

On the first day of the try-

See TRYOUTS on Page 22

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Soccer tryouts for the Junior National Academy are ongoing at the NMISTC in Koblerville.

Saipan CNMI 670 advances to Final Four

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Players of Saipan CNMI 670 made their home islands proud by making it to the Final Four of the 2023 Net Rippers Basketball League in Lakewood, Washington.

The team, made up of former Saipan residents Jed Villanueva, Albert Salas, JayMark De Guzman, Ehroll Peredo, Melvin Deocares, Juanis King, and Herbert Maranan and coached by Adrian De Luna, upset No. 2 seed Seattle The Bro in the first round of the playoffs to make it to the semifinals.

As the No. 7 seed, Saipan CNMI 670 negated Seattle The Bro's twice-to-beat advantage by beating them in their first game, 57-47, with Salas leading the way with 18 points, while De Guzman and Beltran chipped in 15 and 10 markers, respectively.

In the do-or-die second game for both teams, Saipan CNMI 670 completed the upset by scoring another 10-point win, 63-53. They were again led by the 25 points of Salas and the 12 points of Beltran, while Peredo fired 9 points.

De Luna, who played for Team Rollers, Places, and Division of Youth Services on Saipan, said they will again go for broke in the semifinals against Lakeland Faith Fighters this Aug. 25 at the Lakewood Community Center.

"We will give our best shot to go to finals and make history here in Washington state. That's been our goal since Day 1. It's going to be very interesting this coming weekend against Parkland Faith Fighters," he said.

De Luna, who left Saipan in 2015, said apart from gunslinger Salas, former Blue Haus forward De Guzman has been heaven-sent for the team.

"He's been a huge help to our team. He knows what he's doing out there to make the

See SAIPAN on Page 22

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan CNMI 670 players Jed Villanueva (7), Albert Salas (30), JayMark De Guzman (1), Ehroll Peredo (6), Melvin Deocares (2), Juanis King (back of Deocares), Herbert Maranan (13), and Jay Beltran (second from right) pose with coach Adrian De Luna (holding the basketball) following a break in the 2023 Net Rippers Basketball League.